

WAGAMAMA ONNA NI TENSEI

SHITA YO

– Reincarnated into a selfish woman –

- Part 2 -

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CHAPTER 31

CUTE IS JUSTICE

“Kigurumi¹... you said?”

“Yes”

Becker reveals a bewilderment at my astounding demand.

“I will repeat Okusama’s words, but 『Make clothes modeled after animals, and wear them?』 is that right?”

“Yes, that is correct”

I deliberately nod with a great confidence.

“ “Why”, would it be alright to ask you?”

“Because it is cute!”

I declare clearly.

“... I see...”

Becker’s lips were twitching, but he somehow endured with a great effort. Ignoring such Becker’s heart, I continued talking.

“I want to spread a song!”

“Song...”

Throwing such words with an uncertain meaning in succession at him, Becker is greatly perplexed.

He continues being at a loss for words, holding back not to say an impolite remark to

fall into my disgrace. Better yet, it's near 『Did she hit her head?』 .

Because Becker who is at the pinnacle of bewilderment is indeed pitiful, I decided to get down to business.

“Yes, a song of numbers”

“Numbers...”

“I want many children and people to feel closer to numbers and calculations”

Becker still doesn't understand as he tilts his head.

I thought that I wanted to spread “calculation on paper,” but I noticed a certain problem with that.

That most of people don't have the basic knowledge.

Many people in the town can not do simple additions.

There's no way I could all of sudden teach those people that method.

Therefore, I thought of the “song.”

First, I want to start with the children's song “What is figure 1?”.

It will be easier for children to remember and get familiar with.

And then, how about the song about addition and subtraction?

The song about calculation on paper should be last. I think that it's not a bad method of imprinting knowledge in the human head.

Originally, the medium which spreads historical facts and recent happenings in this world the most are wandering minstrels.

I could make itinerant entertainers make a play out of this, but a song is the best to spread it easily and widely.

That's where the “Kigurumi” comes in!

Standing out is a safe bet! It will also be popular with children.

I am overdoing it? Isn't that okay! “Cute” has a tremendous power anywhere in the

world!

Viva, Kigurumi unit!!

“Therefore, a minstrel or a singer will be necessary, can you find one?”

Becker who finished hearing my full story has completely stiffened.

Are you okay? Have you received way too much shock?

Indeed, my proposal has escaped from common sense, but... is Becker objecting too?

“Okusama!”

Wh, what? You are scary, you know?

Becker’s sharp eyes stare at me.

“Wonderful! As expected of Okusama! It’s such idea that people with mediocre heads like I would never come up with! Moreover, I was deeply moved by your spirit to spread knowledge to many people. I have heard nobles saying that commoners don’t need to learn here and there, but Okusama’s compassion should be an example for every noble out there”

Becker talks on and on.

He exaggerates as usual... but, does that mean he approves?

“I will immediately arrange a Kigurumi and a singer!”

I’m relieved as Becker powerfully nods.

I’m glad! I was thinking about what to do if Becker refuses.

I always leave it to you, sorry! I’m relying on you!

“By the way, Okusama, I would like to hear more about your calculation on paper method, would that be possible?”

Becker’s cunning eyes sparkle.

Ah, calculations are indispensable for a merchant, so the method would considerably help Becker.

“Of course”

When I willingly nod, a smile spreads on Becker’s whole face.

Of course, I pay for the trouble I make, but since I’m always in his care, I think that this is a cheap price to return the favor. I am grateful for your help!

When I explained the method to Becker, “Oh!” he became speechless.

After resurrecting after a while Becker couldn’t help, but want to try calculating. He began writing calculations on paper with child’s innocence.

Well, the grinning and laughing expression of Becker at the end was really malicious, though...

And then, after Becker left to do various arrangements, I have received a visit from an unexpected person.

Impeccably dressed with calm appearance, on the contrary to his gentle manner of speaking, his eyes are full of great willpower.

“Okusama, thank you very much for your valuable time”

“I do not mind. So, what is the important matter? Rouven?”

Although I have already guessed why he came, I still ask the steward of our House.

“Yes, I will go straight to the point. It’s regarding the document I have asked Wirbel-sama to help me with yesterday”

“Was there perhaps something wrong with it?”

I feign ignorance and ask.

“No, far from wrong, it was flawless”

“I see, then there is no problem then”

“Yes... however...”

Rouven shows hesitation to speak.

“There were no mistakes, but that was the biggest mistake on it’s own... Although it was relatively simple, it was not a document a three-year-old could who just started taking lessons could flawlessly calculate”

Rouven’s serious eyes inquire.

“You have spoken with Wirbel, did you not?”

He came here because he heard.

“Yes, I have heard a truly marvelous story from Wirbel-sama. That Okusama taught him “calculating on paper”... Okusama, Okusama do you know how wonderful this “calculating on paper” is? This could change the future of mathematics, its potential is limitless!”

Rouven’s powerful words resound around the living room.

... It appeared, another exaggerating person.

The wicked Becker, overpraising Head Chef. And now, the third one... too serious Rouven.

The trio is complete!

“With this calculation method, calculations that took a while to finish could now be completed quickly. Calculations are essential in variety of fields, it would greatly contribute to development of our country”

The heated up Rouven continues his fiery speech.

Well, I can't necessarily say that Rouven's fiery speech is too exaggerated. Calculations for a merchant like Becker are essential, they are also necessary for office people like Rouven. Calculations are required for various occupations, and they are even necessary for ordinary housewives.

For that reason a "song" it is!

Put the calculations in the people's minds before they can even realize it!

A melody that one would hum without knowing.

"Song" is a fearful thing that will remain in your head. Moreover, if that's something you hear since childhood, you won't forget it for the rest of your life.

I can perfectly sing the song I had first heard when I was small!

"Yes, therefore I tried making various plans"

"Plans, is it?"

I tell Rouven about the plan with Becker.

"Hou... I see..."

When I advance with the story, Rouven nods in admiration.

"A song is a wonderful idea! I am not able to imagine this "Kigurumi," but if there's something this powerless me can help you with, please say it without reserve!"

"I see, then, I will have you excuse yourself to Christhard-sama at once"

Because he would say something again if I continued, let's break it up here! Good luck, Rouven!

"Ha, haa... understood..."

Rouven's powerful words suddenly become hesitant.

Do your best, Rouven! Whether I will get scolded depends on your ability!

When the indisposed Rouven returns, Wirbel who was in the main building returns.

“Okaasama!”

I tightly embrace Wirbel and immerse myself in our reunion.

We already saw each other in the morning? Such thing doesn't matter! Wirbel will heal my heart which became tired after meeting the two men.

That those two must be more tired than me, I'm not accepting such complaints!

Anyway, since I have worked hard today, let's spend the rest of the day slowly with Wirbel.

Shall I sing the song with my cute Wirbel!?

Lalala~

Footnotes

1. “Kigurumi” comes from a combination of two Japanese words: kuru (“to wear”) and nuigurumi (“stuffed toy”). Traditionally, it referred specifically to the performers wearing the costume, but the word has since grown to include the costumes themselves. Also used as pajamas

CHAPTER 32

PANDA IS A SACRED BEAST

I take a deep breath slowly.

I lightly close my eyes to increase my concentration.

Failure is not an option.

For Wirbel, for myself, and for the sake of people all around the world!

After calming my heart and staring at the map in my hands, I quietly point at a certain place.

“It is here”

“Okusama, is there something at that place? Is it a mine again?”

Berta asks reservedly.

This is the study at the Sunlight Mansion.

Since there are many things such as my property that I have to manage accordingly, I do the office work here.

Because Berta also acts like my secretary, I ask her to accompany me during the business hours in the study.

“No, it is different. There is “vanilla” in that place”

“Vanilla, is it?”

Countless lights are shining on the map before me, but the place where I pointed at is shining brilliantly.

Most likely, the highest grade vanilla grows here in considerable numbers.

“Yes, that is right”

“?? Is it a valuable gem, food or something?”

Curiosity for the unknown dwells in Berta’s voice.

I often forget because she’s so dependable, but that doesn’t change the fact that Berta is still in her twenties just like Amalie. She’s still young, with a suitable amount of curiosity for her age.

Young? Young!! She’s from the same generation as me so it’s only natural that she’s young! Isn’t that right!?

“No, you can not really call it food, this is a “spice” “

“Spice...”

Knowing me who was previously indulging only in social life, Berta shows a confused expression, most likely finding it strange that I show interest in spices.

“Right, it is a spice used for sweets”

“You put spice in sweets?”

“Yes, this vanilla has a “sweet fragrance.” It can make the usual sweets feel many times more delicious”

Vanilla is a plant and it also blooms flowers. The unique fragrance is born by processing the seeds of vanilla.

The seeds are hidden in a pod, with small black grains inside.

Vanilla itself is tasteless.

But, as often said, meals are not only sensed by the tongue, but also by visuals and scent.

Vanilla is necessary for the “sweet fragrance” in sweets.

Due to this “sweet fragrance,” sweets will feel more delicious.

And, it also prevents a certain fishy smell from foodstuffs.

I have heard vanilla being called a “the fragrance of happiness.”

Vanilla is also used for aromatherapy candles, so it has relaxing effects, it’s also used for perfume and other various things.

The processing method is a problem, but since I won’t know unless I try, finding the vanilla plants comes first.

“Then, Berta...”

Are? Berta, where did you go?

Berta who stood next to me suddenly disappeared. She disappeared from the study without a trace.

N~~~?

“Okusama”

*Biku*¹

I literally jump at the sudden voice.

Berta is staying at the doorway, looking at me silently.

H, how!? You weren’t here, right!? There were no signs of you!?

Mou, I feel terrified by Berta-san’s elusiveness! Scary!

“Regarding the “vanilla” from a little while ago, please rest assured, I have already arranged for reliable person”

... Ha?

When!? That’s way too fast!!

You were gone only a few minutes, right!?

That’s impossible, right? Impossible!? So scary!!

Berta might have a tremendous power that is way above my skill and magical power... let’s not go against her... un.

“Please, rest assured. I have told them to handle it with caution!”

Berta’s eyes sparkle and glitter.

Ah, the person who went to pick it up, so pitiful...

What eyes will appear if he fails... *buruburu*²

“Be, Berta, I, I have written the characteristics of vanilla, please hand it over to the search party, it will be useful”

“Certainly! At once!”

Berta leaves from the study.

... Berta-san’s enthusiasm burns when it comes to sweets, huh.

How will she look at me if the processing fails...

Yosh, let’s do my best! For Wirbel and Berta, for the happiness of every person around the world, and also, for my safety! Failure is not permitted!

“Then, I will return now”

When I open the door of the study, I can hear noise from the lower floor which should be quiet.

“Screams?”

I hear small screams coming from the noisy maids.

“Okusama”

“Berta, it seems to be somewhat noisy, did something happen?”

There is no imminent fear in the noisy voices of the maids, and when I approached, Berta wasn’t especially panicked.

“Yes, Becker Company’s Chief has visited...”

Berta’s voice is unusually troubled.

It seems there is no danger and Berta is not going over to check, so I move downstairs to the entrance hall to see what is going on.

When I approach, the maids open a path in a startle.

“Becker, what is the noise about?”

“Okusama! Please take a look at this!”

Becker triumphantly spreads open his hands and urges me to take a look at the object at his feet.

A round black and white body is staying near his feet.

... Pa, Panda?

A round face with fuzzy white fur, and black hair around the eyes and ears.

A large black nose in the middle, and two round and cute eyes which were looking at me.

“How is it? I have used the puzzle Okusama has made for Wirbel-sama as reference!”

“I, I see...”

I’m at a loss for words because of the impact of the panda that shouldn’t be in this world.

“I have not seen an animal like that before. However, it had such dignified look. I have guessed that this is a phantom sacred beast that only Okusama with her extensive knowledge knows, therefore, for the compassionate Okusama who is and trying to spread mathematics to the people, I did my best collection information and came up

with this!"

I can't unexpectedly feel other intents, Becker looks at me with sincere eyes.

This, perhaps, he wants a praise?

B, but... Becker's eyes are sparkling full of expectations.

"T, thank you. It is adorable"

When I helplessly praise him, Becker starts happily grinning.

Nevertheless, what's with the sacred beast!?

Well, you think it's my fault for drawing an animal that doesn't exist in this world? I mean, the ink is black so I thought "Black and white animal, a panda?" and drawn it! I'm sorry!

But, however! I want to emphasize this!

Becker! Please stop with the ridiculous guesses and stop spreading strange rumors!! Seriously!!

I cry in vain in my mind. Haa.

"That's right! The impressions of the many people who saw it was "adorable." Isn't this the most suitable for children!"

The maids raise voices of agreement to Becker's words.

The screams from the maids from a while ago apparently weren't screams, but "squeals" instead.

I was afraid that might be scared of Kigurumi³, but it's a fantastic miscalculation that it was received favorably like this.

Can this achievement be considered Becker's since he chose panda for the Kigurumi? I don't want to recognize it, but that may be so.

How? The quality is so high it makes me think.

When I touch it, a first-rate mink-like fur, and not too heavy weight. Not only the face, but even the body has a lovely charm.

As expected fo Becker Company, perfect work!

Saa, now let's aim towards the world's best costume mascot character!

Oh!!... ?

Footnotes

1. Biku – A surprised reaction, usually in a semi-frightened state.
2. buruburu – Shudder
3. “Kigurumi” comes from a combination of two Japanese words: kiru(“to wear”) and nuigurumi (“stuffed toy”). Traditionally, it referred specifically to the performers wearing the costume, but the word has since grown to include the costumes themselves. Also used as pajamas

CHAPTER 33

『WHAT IS FIGURE 1?』

“Kyaa~! So cute~” “Oh, wonderful...”

Emi cheers with her cheeks dyed pink, and Jonas who watches on the side mutters while stunned.

A child-oriented show is unfolding on the department store’s rooftop in front of the two.

Two dancing and singing pandas... it’s cute, but it makes me feel very strange. Kigurumi that shouldn’t exist in this world. Moreover, I couldn’t help, but keep asking myself why pandas?

However, to the contrary of the bewildered me, the reaction of the people around is excellent.

I don’t see any signs of rejection from Emi and Jonas who I came with after the short course in the Cooperation Union.

On the contrary, Emi started humming the melody of the song the pandas were singing.

Becker’s work was quick.

He prepared the Kigurumi, found singers, and just like that, we have reached today. And, he not only singing, he also approved my idea of dancing, so the singers were also trained in dancing.

I have no choice, but to praise, as expected of Becker.

The pandas were dancing with a perfect synchronization that pushed the cuteness even further.

Every time they wagged their tails, the children and women would cheer.

“ 『What is figure 1?』 tte... is this song about counting?”

“It seems like that. Have you ever learned counting, Jonas?”

I ask Jonas who showed interest in the song.

In front of us, the pandas carefully took out illustrations that imitated the shapes of numbers.

I was the one who asked for it, but I have to thank Becker for making the illustration easy to understand.

“No, I haven’t learned it. I thought that I could get tricked if I don’t know it, but it was too difficult for me. But, after listening to this song, I already memorized it”

Jonas says impression as hoped for.

Yosh! Imprinting successful!

At this rate, we will get the numbers to everyone’s head!

And finally, with the introduction of calculation on paper method, Jonas and other children who are poor with calculations won’t get scammed by bad people.

I really have to bow my head down for Becker who was able to keep up with my unreasonable request this good.

Therefore, I will keep the “Heartless Merchant” and the evil looking grin that comes with it a secret. Sorry.

But, I’m extremely relieved. With this song, everyone will surely be able to learn numbers.

And then, the awareness of people like Jonas who never learned calculations would increase.

Remembering the shape of numbers is crucial for learning calculations. The reason is that the person imagines the numbers unconsciously when calculating in the head.

They can’t imagine if they don’t know the shape of the numbers.

The shape of numbers is indispensable fundamental knowledge.

Thus, they will be able to do addition and subtraction in the head, and eventually,

through the calculating on paper, it would be possible to imagine a little more complicated calculations without writing on paper.

It may take time until that would be possible, but seeing Jonas's current condition, I thought that the first big step went smoothly.

"Ah~ that was so adorable! Ena-san, thank you very much for bringing me along!"

A smile floats on Emi's whole face.

After the pandas had finished singing, they broke into a handshake even for some reason.

The children swarm the pandas, they are extremely popular.

The struggle of singers in the panda costumes is reminiscent.

Wearing Kigurumi they are not accustomed to yet, and being jolted around by children... Thank you very much for your hard work, is the only thing I can say.

I have to tell Becker to reward them for their efforts properly.

"No, I heard about the announcement from the Becker Company, so I wanted to come myself, I'm glad you had fun"

"Un! That "panda" is very cute! Sacred beasts are cute, huh!"

... No, a panda is no sacred beast, okay?

Because of the spoken introduction of the pandas, everyone thinks now that "panda = scared beast."

Becker's instigation is obvious, but is that alright? Maa, it's okay, I guess? The ones angered by it... probably the people of the church?

U~n, the church wouldn't know the authenticity too, let's decide for it to be alright! It's troublesome, after all!

Nevertheless, the pandas are popular, huh... as expected of the national idols!

Panda goods would sell well~

Since it's the shrewd Becker we are talking about, he probably already started to move.

But, I think it would be great if the sales from the promotional goods could fund the

education of children.

I'm sorry for Becker, but let's try requesting that.

Besides, this shouldn't be a bad talk for Becker either.

A great contribution by a large company.

It will naturally have aspects of goodwill and tax measures, but it also has a significant role to raise corporate image.

If you chase only after the profits of the company, you may start being viewed as an evil corporation and get disliked by people.

It is possible to show that the company is good by reducing the profits.

Because in this world, the Becker Company is of a considerable scale, if that they make way too much profit, they will start getting judged by general public.

However, by using the money for the sake of children, it would be possible to raise the company's image.

Consequently, it will lead to further expansion of Becker Company's buyers.

Because people want to shop from those with a good impression and reputation.

It may sound quite two-faced, but it's a good way not to lose for both sides.

"Then, shall we go?"

I address Emi and Jonas after giving a sidelong glance at a carriage that stopped near us.

Berta is riding the carriage.

She came to pick me up, but because I wanted to see the pandas, she had to wait.

"Un, we want to take a look at the store with a "snowflake" symbol. Would you like to come too, Ena-san? There are apparently many unusual things"

... "Snowflake" symbol?

Possibly, no need to guess... it's that, right...

A snow crystal resembling a flower is the logo of my merchandise.

Since both Emi and others know of it, Becker must have started steadily selling the goods.

“I am very sorry, but I have something to do, so I will return home now”

I'd like to see the store too, but it's already slightly later than usual. I must not make Wirbel worry. I have to return quickly!

“Eh~ how regrettable! It would be nice if Ena-san could go too! But, it can't be helped if you have something important to do~ let's go together next time, okay! Today's pandas, and also seeing the ice magic was very fun!”

While Emi reluctant to part, she remembered today's events and showed a happy expression.

Ah, ice magic.

Because the Cooperation Union Chief inquired about my practice, I have reported that I am able to use ice magic.

I did it while saying that it's nothing great, but everyone was quite surprised. It seems the ice magic is unusual just as Berta said.

Moreover, when Emi and others requested to see more of the ice magic, I made a sorbet, and everyone was staring in wonder.

The Cooperation Union Chief was deeply sighing in amazement.

As expected, ice magic and sorbet do not seem to be common.

When Emi and others requested to see it, they probably had some attack or defense magic in mind.

They probably didn't even imagine I would use it for a beverage.

However, the sorbet was popular with everyone.

It didn't have any taste since it was just frozen water, but everyone ate deliciously. They must have found the coldness and the texture unusual.

When I handed cookies together with the sorbet to everyone, the Cooperation Union Chief lined up as usual, and ate while saying “This is!” happily.

It isn't magic useful for combat, but the Cooperation Union Chief seemed to approve

of it.

I thought of "What if I *sharishari* all the blood inside body?" when leaving, so I asked the Cooperation Union Chief, but he drew away with a cramped smile. Why? How curious. Even though I have found a way to use it in combat!

Saa, let's return then!

I stealthily approached the carriage after parting with Emi and others.

"Okusama, you have worked hard. How was your day today?"

"You didn't do something you could feel guilty of again, did you?" Berta looks at me with such expression.

How rude! I didn't do anything! ... Probably.

I mean, making sorbet is nothing serious, right? Right?

When I softly look away, Berta's eyes narrowed.

"Okusama?"

"Let's quickly return. Wirbel is waiting"

"Certainly"

The eyes of Berta who obediently acknowledges gleam.

She will make me admit it all later, huh...

Can't be helped, haa.

CHAPTER 34

A GEM WAS MINED

“Okusama, a report”

“Thank you”

I receive a thick bundle of papers from Berta.

A daily record of production in the mine Amalie possesses is mentioned in detail there. It's the mine found by Amalie's convenient skill.

Amalie has been reading the details of the report since a long time ago, confirming whether embezzlement, fraud, etc. were not done.

While it was also for own profits, it was mainly in order to see whether the employees are not mistreated and whether they receive proper wages.

With Amalie's skill, she could accurately see the problems, and correct the injustice. In that sense, it may be said that Amalie was very just to people who didn't see her face to face.

Aware of the hard manual labor in the mines, the workers have unusual breaks, spontaneously making the yield large with only a few accidents.

For that reason, it became a popular workplace for people to gather, and the nearby towns also seem to be developing.

As I continued reading the report, an interesting thing was written.

“A jewel that changes colors?”

It is turquoise under the sun in the daytime, and it turns red under the light of the candle in the night.

It seems that quite a significant one was mined, and the report can also reads the excitement at the mining site.

“Berta, what kind of gem could possibly change colors in the light?”

After reading the report, I raise my face and try asking Berta.

“A color changing gem, is it? ... Is it perhaps that gem?”

“You know of it?”

“Yes, Okusama has also seen it before”

N? Did I see such gem before?

I think I would remember it if I have seen it, though...

“It’s the gem decorated at the center of the crown. I can see it only once a year during the Founding Festival from afar, but I heard that it’s a precious gem that changes colors”

Since the crown is worn only on ceremonies or when receiving a guest from another country, there are only a few opportunities to see it.

But, that gem is a national treasure, right?

Also, because the thing mined is an uncut stone, the size after processing is not clear, but there’s a possibility it’s bigger than the one on the crown.

“According to legends, it’s a stone with a hidden power. That power apparently manifests and assists in founding a nation”

Ah~ I feel like we have discovered something very troublesome~ Should I make it look like I know nothing of it and bury it?

Yosh, let’s do it! That’s the correct answer!

“Right...”

“Okusama, was a color changing gem mined in the mines!?”

While forming a “Darker than darkness plan” in my mind, Berta who noticed the flow asked.

“Eh!? N, n~”

“... Okusama, you are not thinking of something improper, are you?”

U, too perceptive. I won't be surprised if Berta had a mind reading skill.
Or is it that I'm just too simple? No way, right?

“Berta, but, think well, if, if? This “Gem of legends” was actually discovered what kind of trouble will follow? It will not end just with a great uproar. If there really is a big power hidden within that gem, it won't just be my personal problem anymore. I think it is too dangerous to let the public know”

At my words, Berta frowns while thinking.

Maa, it's not decided yet that the gem that was found is the “Gem of legends.” It's probably different! Un, that must be it! It's just my imagination runs wild because of the trouble that would follow! Right!?

Leaving the joke of burying in the darkness aside (I was about 90% serious, though), we should properly examine it first.
I can't start without seeing it first.

While my skill is convenient, it's also not, so I can't appraise.
I won't know whether this gem is the “Gem of legends” even if I see it. To begin with, even if I check it first, it will be important to compare it with the gem on the crown.

However, I should be able to distinguish between something good and something bad by watching the shining from my skill. If it doesn't glow, it just nothing exciting and everything will turn out fine. Rather, I want that to happen! Seriously!! Please, don't shine!

Yosh, then, let's contact them to deliver it to our residence. Also, I must make sure to forbid them from speaking about it to not make too much noise. It's often the case that rumors make things serious.

I turn the pages of the report and read until the last line.

... Yes, impossible~

It can't be transported!! It's too big!!

With its size of a small build adult man, it was only possible to lift with ten men who boasted with their strength.

Even if it would be possible by making them carry it by force, there are not many roads in this world. Even moving it by a carriage would require next to impossible skill.

Rather, is that really a gem? The size is impossible, though.

What to do? As expected, do we bury it once and for all? That would be way safer~

What's going on in the mine's surroundings again?

They seem to be developing with the mine effect, but... there appear to be patrols, so the public order is not bad.

Since the income from the mine was also devoted to the maintenance of the neighborhood, the town would have developed to medium size.

Why did Amalie concentrate her energy on that mine so much?

Memories of that time... right, it's because it super-ultra-hyper shined.

What is going on!? The map shined that much.

... What is going on? tte, wasn't that because of the gem?

Ah~~~ the worst. Troubles are steadily marching towards us. Haa.

"Berta... could you please prepare for a journey"

"Are you going to the mine!?"

When I feebly requested with a sigh mixed in, Berta asked with a slight surprise. She probably thinks that there's no need for me to go personally.

"Yes, one-way will take ten days, huh... the worst"

Oops, my real feelings left my mouth unconsciously.

I mean, Wirbel!! I won't be able to see my cute, adorable Wirbel for nearly a month,

you know!?

This is far worse than the worst! Mou!

I pick up next document for change while hanging my head.

Panda, huh...

It's Becker's written opinion on the marketing of the promotional goods.

Regarding the matter of donation, Becker didn't seem enthusiastic at first, but he agreed after hearing that he will make a certain profit from it too.

To my theory of "donation" being linked with publicity and reputation of the company, Becker seemed to be genuinely surprised, and he was happily grinning in the end.

Although I am talking about donations to children and those who want to learn mathematics, the mood felt sinister for some reason... Indeed, a "Heartless Merchant?"

No, no, that's not it, right?

"Wood carving of panda..."

While reading Becker's opinions, there was a picture of panda carved from wood attached.

Subtle~ If they make it cute, it may not be bad as it is, but it inevitably reminds me of a bear holding a salmon in its mouth. Maa, it's made cheaply but... the common people will be able to get their hands on it easier?

But, as expected, the cuteness of panda will decrease without its mofumofuness.

That being the case, "stuffed animal," is it?

There are none in this world so let's as Becker later. Anneliese-sama seems pleased with hers. How about Wirbel? Even if he's a mature three-year-old, he will surely be pleased with it! Panda is supposed to be invincible!

"Saa, it is almost time for Wirbel to return. Let's go out for a tea"

Today's sweets are Agepan¹ filled with fresh cream, topped with sugar.

Right, a staple item of a certain doughnut shop. I liked that very much, so I recreated

it.

The Head Chef didn't have an idea about rising dough, so he was exaggeratedly impressed again.

It's the usual, so I already ignore it.

Even Kurt and Damien who learn by observation made sounds of comprehension like "Is that so~" in response.

Head Chef, where did your dignity go... no, it does not mean that I don't respect you or anything...

Now! There's a certain matter that made me depressed, but let's enjoy Agepan with Wirbel after a while!

CHAPTER 35

SAFE AND COMFORTABLE TRIP

“Okaasama... is it true that you are going on a trip?”

Wirbel mutters in the living room.

“Eh?”

Because the question was so sudden, a stupid voice leaves my mouth unconsciously.

Startled, I look at Wirbel, but he was looking at the ground, trying not to look at me. I have wondered why Wirbel knows about that, but he probably heard from the maids that are preparing for my travels.

“Wirbel...”

When I call his name and stroke his soft chestnut-colored hair, Wirbel embraces me and buries his head into my tummy.

I feel like I have seen Wirbel’s heart which has not recovered yet.

Not much time has passed since I have awakened as Amalie, and Amalie wasn’t showing affection to Wirbel before that. Wirbel must have certainly gotten hurt by his mother who continued treating him coldly.

However, even in the past, Wirbel didn’t show any signs of dislike of Amalie. He always looked at her with a smile on his whole face.

Even though getting hated was unavoidable.

If that had continued, Wirbel would definitely lose his smile before long. Just thinking about that makes me shudder.

Thinking that far, I have made up my mind.

“Wirbel?”

When his name is called again, he looks at me with his round and pure eyes and waits.

“Okaasama?”

Wirbel timidly raises his voice.

“Wirbel, how about yo go too! How about it?”

When I tell so with a smile, Wirbel opens his eyes wide enough to pop out.

“... M, me too?”

“Yes! It will surely become a fun trip!”

“Ye, yes!! I’d like to go together with Okaasama!”

A vigorous voice full of joy replied.

Yosh! There are a lot of things that need to be taken care of since it has been decided.

First... I have to talk with the head of the family, Christhard-sama.

If it were just me, he would send me off just after a while, but it won’t be that easy if Wirbel is with me. Although I’m the mother, since I want to take out the son of the Flaksburb House, we have to talk thoroughly.

It would be best to request Rouven to put in a good word.

The annoying face of our House’s steward entered my mind, but he should be able to persuade Christhard-sama. Do your best Rouven! I’m sorry for relying on you!

After that... This is the most important thing, but it must be thorough “guarantee of safety.”

The only means of transport are horses, so naturally, a carriage will be used. Unlike a car, a carriage is dull. Seriously! That’s why one-way will take ten days.

I miss Shinkansen... airplane would be good too, but... an airplane... I wonder if there’s

a way to fly? No, I can't expose Wirbel to something so dangerous. Even if it's possible, there's no guarantee that it's completely safe.

Maa, I may look into it later, but let's be safe and use carriage this time.

"Okusama...?"

While pondering about that, Berta quietly called out.

"What is it?"

"Wirbel-sama has..."

When I look down, Wirbel fell asleep while clinging to me.

"Ara..."

I unconsciously smile after seeing his lovely sleeping face.

My precious, adorable Wirbel. Since I have decided to take him along, I will protect this child even if it costs my life!

I carry Wirbel to his room, and leave to my room after staring at his sleeping face for a while.

I have Berta prepare me a pen, and I begin to write.

"Improvement of a carriage"

Let's think about this first.

When attacked by monsters or bandits, the strength of the carriage is certainly important, but the "strength of horses" is as important. If possible, it'd be nice if they could "trample or kick away," but...

Improved defensive and offensive power... after that...

"Okusama..."

“Eh? What is it?”

When I look back, I met eyes with Berta’s tired eyes.

“Okusama, you wish for an offensive power from a horse, but... horses are originally cowardly animals...”

It seems that the plan I thought was smooth was seen and Berta softly stated her objection.

I see, demanding so much from carriage horses would make them pitiful~ Since it can’t be helped, let’s endure with “extra-thick armor.” “Eye beams”... no, too dangerous. Because Berta’s tired eyes were switched with cold ones, let’s leave the horse reinforcing at this.

Let’s think how to make the carriage “safe and comfortable” now.

I think of various ideas, but maybe it is better to think about the possibility of using “that.”

Right, the terrifying “that” I thought of never using again.

“Dimensional Barrier”

Open a dimensional space and enter it.

When I asked the Cooperation Union Chief about it, he confirmed that it’s even rarer magic than ice magic.

Many people don’t publicize the magic they can use, so it is not clear, but among those who did, there wasn’t anyone who could use this magic.

While explaining, the Cooperation Union Chief stared at me and muttered “Surely not...”, but he didn’t want to hear more to keep being sane, he didn’t ask anymore. The Cooperation Union Chief groaned “Ouch, ouch, ouch...” while holding his stomach, but it’s not my fault. Right?

That being the case, as a result of investigating by myself from reading books and

testing the magic, I came to the conclusion that there would be no danger in the dimension space itself.

If there would be a danger, it will be not being able to leave the dimension, but that shouldn't happen with me around.

Therefore, I have decided that "the door of the carriage will be linked to dimensional space."

The deep, deep sigh I have heard from the back must be my imagination.

Well then, let's go ahead with the plan.

In order not to make it unnatural, let's "keep the space as big as the inside the carriage." Just sitting in a seat in the carriage for ten days will inevitably impose a considerable burden on Wirbel.

In that case, how about using the specifications of Ox cart from the Heian period?

In other words, "sitting on the ground without seats."

We will spread a soft and fluffy carpet and put a lot of cushion under. It would be possible to sit on the cushioning and lie down if tired.

Because it will be inside the dimensional space, there naturally won't be any shaking, it will be neither hot nor cold.

Right, right, children like to watch outside while traveling, so I can't forget a section for a window.

Then, it would be better also to hear the sound from outside to the degree they won't be too loud... that's somehow difficult... maa, let's think about the minor details later.

Comfortableness is secured, so the "reinforcement of safety" is next.

The dimensional space is very safe on its own, but other measures besides that are necessary.

What would be the best... n~... I see, "not being seen" would...

You can't attack a carriage unless you see it.

Then, how can I make it invisible? Fumu.

So, what is the phenomenon of seeing?

People can't see in perfect darkness. People are able to see the shape or color of objects because of the reflection of light, is what I think I learned.

Does that make things that do not reflect light invisible?

First of all, let's test it.

Berta graciously cooperated after reaching the point of giving up.

The conclusion of the experiment is that it's not possible.

When only a small part of the scenery doesn't reflect light, an unclear black object can be seen, it doesn't completely disappear from sight.

Then, what should I do to make it completely disappear from the human eyes? I thought various things, to make it invisible I had no choice to go with transparent, but even if transparent, it's possible to notice it by sound or presence.

In the first place, this world has beastmen who have better eyesight than humans, monsters and magic beasts also exist here.

It may be good just to erase sounds and presence, but when not done only for ourselves, but for all things and people, I think that various inconveniences would emerge.

Then, what should I do?

As expected, it may be better to give up the direct way and try the indirect way.

In other words, "visible, but not visible" state. People are not conscious of things that they are not interested in, so it doesn't remain in their memory. Influence the consciousness of people to make us difficult to acknowledge.

"Did something just pass by?" "Eh? I didn't notice" something like that.

How is it? Isn't this the best solution?

Let's make the influence of this magic to about radius of 50m.

There won't be a collision since it can be actually seen, but its existence will immediately go out of the consciousness.

In a case of ranged attack, let's not forget about "shielding magic" on the carriage.

No matter how much I don't want us to be seen, we should disable magic like that in places with a lot of pedestrian traffic so let's set up an "on and off switch." It would be

terrible if we cause an accident resulting in injury or death.

Besides, there may be a situation where it would be troublesome to be not recognized. It would be too sad to get ignored.

Is it also necessary for “offensive magic practice?”

The offensive horses were rejected by Berta, so I have no choice, but to do something about it myself.

Maa, we will have guards with us, so I don’t think my turn will come, but...

Is it the turn of “Blood *sharishari* magic” as expected? “Turn the blood inside your body into sorbet” is a merciless attack in a sense.

But, wouldn’t a scar remain on Wirbel’s heart after witnessing something like that?

No, this world is different from my past peaceful world, so it may be alright, but...

Maa, I have never seen the blood in person’s body turn into sorbet, so it’s possible that he would just suddenly collapse. There will also probably be little to no suffering. Maa, but it may be better to learn slightly more proper offensive magic?

U~n, while groaning about my plans, a new cup of tea was placed in front of me.

“Ara, thank you”

“No”

When I say my thanks, Berta replies with a feeble voice.

Are? Is the usually lively nagging Berta-san tired?

She was fine when we returned to the room, when did she become so exhausted to look as if her soul left her body? How curious? Why?

“Berta, you do not look well, are you all right?”

“... Yes, I’m all right. There’s no need to worry”

Contrary to the words of denial, I feel like Berta’s eyes are blaming me for some reason.

Is it my fault? No, I didn't do anything, right?

I'm just obediently sitting at my desk and writing. I did a slight experiment, but that's all.

Un, I'm unrelated! Let's give Berta-san some delicious sweets.

The growing feeling of guilt within me is just my imagination. Let's think so! There are things in the world you should not be aware of! I won't read the mood! Viva the power of insensitivity!

Now then, maa, it's important to prepare to ensure safety, but because Wirbel will be there it's better for nothing to happen.

Let's consider the best way by trying various trials and errors! For the sake of having a fun trip with Wirbel!

CHAPTER 36

SNOWY NIGHT

“What is “snow?” “

While relaxing after dinner, Wirbel asks while looking at the snowflake symbol engraved goods left behind by Becker.

“Snow is something that falls from skies just like the rain. It is white and very cold”

“Is that so? But, I have never seen it before”

“Yes, that is because snow falls only in cold regions, you can not see it here in Morgenrot which is always warm”

“Has Okaasama saw it before?”

“Let’s see...”

Snow, huh.

Amalie who have not gone out of Morgenrot naturally didn’t see it before. However,”I”know of snow.

My previous self was born and raised in Sapporo.

Snow piling up when winter comes is a natural scene to me.

Enough to make me wonder how can it not snow in Morgenrot.

The memory of”Snow”from my past life is very vivid.

I can accurately remember other memories too, but because I remember them only as images and sounds, their emotions from time to time are not accompanied.

A memory of a single girl being born and raised.

I can remember various events, even my parents, and siblings, but I have no memories

of how I felt at those times.

The feelings during my time spent as Amalie get stronger while recalling my past life.

However, only the “snow” is different.

“Snow” makes my heart beat faster, and when I start thinking about it, it makes me feel lonely, and my heart starts hurting.

I feel like that only when recalling “Snow.”

Snow starts falling as if trying to cover the dark sky.

“I” was absentmindedly staring at it. The snow steadily piles up on me and completely buries me in white.

Is this memory perhaps my last memory of the previous life?

The memories of my previous life don’t go past the time I was a high school student.

Can I simply recall memories only to that point, or did I perhaps die at that time...

Why? When I try to remember, I can’t recall. Only white “Snow” covering the heart of my previous self.

“Okaasama?”

While I was recalling about snow, Wirbel puts his warm little hands on my cold hands.

Ah, I have made Wirbel worry.

Both my present and future in this world will be with Wirbel. I can’t be getting depressed without reason! We have to enjoy ourselves!

“Wirbel, the scene of falling snow is very beautiful. There are also many interesting cultures in the cold regions”

“I’d like to see it!!”

Eh, is that so? Then, shall I make it fall?

Isn’t it a walk in the park for me who can handle sorbet magic? A piece of cake? Should I do it? Grin.

“Okusama...”

Uo!? Chills!?

A blizzard from behind!? Is what I thought, but yes, it was just our regular maid, Maou Berta-sama, I see! I knew it!

Hahahaha, with a dry laugh, I will mislead her... not, huh~ So scary *brrrrrr*.

“Okaasama! How is the culture in the cold regions?”

Wirbel who is young but able to read the mood rescues me from the hands of the demon.

Seriously good child! An angel!

“L, let’s see. When it comes to playing with snow, it would be gliding on the snow or ice, and making houses or statues from the snow?”

A game where a person is taken under a tree and the tree is then kicked?? It’s there, but it’s dangerous, so I’m not able to recommend it. Yes.

After that, is there something else? An enjoyable event during a winter is “that” right? It can be done even without snow.

“Wirbel, shall we decorate a tree?”

“Tree, is it?”

“Yes, we decorate a tree and put presents under it. For a family member or an important person”

“I want to give Okaasama a present! Ar Niisama and Anne and Otousama... Bianca-sama too...”

Wirbel who spoke excitedly murmured the last part in a tiny voice.

“Yes, I would like to give a wonderful to Bianca-sama too”

“Yes!”

When I smile with a pleasant smile, Wirbel returns a glad-looking smile.

Wirbel really is an attentive person for a three-year-old.

When I think that it's most likely because of me, I become apologetic.

It may not be so for Amalie, but it's too much for me who is essentially my pace. I'm sorry to have troubled you.

Now then, presents it is. I would like to give presents to Ojisama, Bel Niisama, and Obaasama in the Royal Palace too. Also, it's inevitable so to Justus too? I would like to give to Berta, Head Chef and everyone in residence too, also Rouven, Becker... I have approached incalculable amount~

"Ah! I want to give one to Ojiisama too!"

Wirbel looks at me with sparkling eyes.

"... Right, present for Otousama is necessary too"

A present for the wise Excellency the Prime Minister of our country... wood carving of panda? Let's go with that.

In the future, a rough carving of panda chewing on a bamboo would decorate the His Excellency the Prime Minister's desk, and the nobles who would speak badly of that carving would get demoted to a remote area... Anyway, apparently that very carving has been treated with care in the Royal Palace for a long time.

Now! Let's prepare the tree!

As a matter of fact, I have just the right tree! There are many in our garden! That will help!

We get the tree from the garden and install it in the living room at once.

"Okaasama, that's a really big tree, isn't it!"

"Yes, then, shall we decorate it? Berta, some little decorations... Berta? Are you all right?"

When I turn around to give instructions, Berta was there in a reduced to ashes state.

What's the matter? She has not said a word after returning from the garden, did something happen?

I removed the tree from the ground and because it would be difficult to carry I just made it walk on its roots with magic?

Wirbel had fun, and something like that is normal in this world of magic, right? It's a popular way of transporting trees, right?

"... Yes, I will prepare them immediately"

Berta staggeringly leaves the room and returns back with decorations in about two minutes.

Two minutes!? That is an unbelievable response time for the lightning fast Berta-san. As expected, she must be tired...

"Berta, I just recalled that Head Chef asked me to sample a new cake, but I am just in the middle of something so could you go instead of me?"

"!! Is that all right!?"

"Yes, please"

Berta who regained energy bowed down and excused herself.

"Then, shall we decorate the tree with this ribbon?"

There was a multicolored ribbon, so we decide to display it.

"Okaasama, I can't reach the top"

Even if I lift Wirbel up, he can't decorate the top of the tree with the ribbon.

"Let's see, let's have the tree decorate itself then"

When I cast the same magic I used for the transportation of the tree, it extends its branches and begins to decorate itself.

“Magic is convenient, isn’t it?”

“Yes! **Okaasama’s** magic is convenient!”

N? Somehow, doesn’t Wirbel’s and my words differ a bit?
It’s my imagination, right? Well, alright.

And after a while, the tree finishes decorating itself.

“It’s cute! Is it completed with this?”

“Well, all that’s left are “lights” “

“Lights? Do we decorate it with candles?”

“Yes, but candles are a bit dangerous so let’s turn up the lights with magic”

Right, my mental state might have already been influenced with”Let’s just do it with magic” syndrome.

Unfortunately, the person who could stop me (Berta) is absent.

I am... guilty...

“Incredible!! It’s sparkling!!”

“Yes”

A perfect workmanship if I say so myself!

Somehow, pride forms in my chest when looking at the tree?

If it’s like that, it will be lonely when we take it down.

After the tree illumination comes the snow, right!! Yosh! Fall down!!

Using the sorbet magic, a snow descends onto the tree.

“How is it? Wirbel, this is “snow” “

“.....”

Wirbel opens his mouth wide and absentmindedly stares at the snow decorating the tree.

“Amazing... Okaasama, that’s amazing!!”

Lovely eyes blurred with respect and deep emotions look at me.

This was the moment my limiter was completely released.

Regret doesn’t come first. Maa, I don’t regret, though! Someone will get angry if I say that so I won’t say it!

“Wirbel, would you like to see snowing a little more?”

“Yes! I want to see it!”

When we get out to the garden, the outside is already dark.

I have made Wirbel stay up quite late, didn’t I?
But, snowing may be more beautiful during night.

Holding up my arms up, snow falls down from the dark sky.
Because the temperature of Morgenrot is too warm, the snow melts down the moment it falls on the ground, but the scene of snow falling down during the night is very magical.

Fumu, as expected a bit of illumination would increase the mood!
Yosh! Let there be light!

Small particles of light flutter down together with the snow.

“It’s beautiful...”

“Yes, it is lovely”

“Yes, I feel like it’s wasteful only for the two of us to see it...”

Wirbel says so while watching the sky in a trance.

Our child is seriously kind!

I understand! Let’s have everyone experience a snowy night then!!

Not only the Sunlight Mansion, let have the snow and light fall down even in the capital for several minutes.

It’s quite late, it’s already night, it won’t probably make too much of a fuss, I thought.

And then, the capital was wrapped in the night of snow and light.

People lost words for this miracle and thought it was the work of a god. The differences between young and old, wealthy or poor were unrelated during that miraculous spectacle.

That scene was handed down for a long time by the rulers of Morgenrot, the legend of gentle light continued to warm the hearts of people.

... I just don’t want to remember what happened after that.

I was scolded by Berta so much I wanted to escape from reality, I was crushed under pressure of Christhard-sama’s few words he said when he visited the Sunlight Mansion, then I received”Come over”words from the Royal Palace and the Cooperation Union Chief... how did I get exposed!?

Maa, but, it’s okaymon! Wirbel was happy! I’m satisfied! It was a good night! Fufufun.

Hii! B, Berta is glaring at me!? Please don’t read my mind! Please! I won’t do it anymore! Probably... I think?

CHAPTER 37

KING OF MORGENROT

“Fumu, this is unexpectedly delicious”

Raw vegetables called appetizers are in front of me.

The whole castle recently started eating these fresh vegetables. The Grand Chamberlain was complaining that the Head Chef was acting strangely.

Normally, the Head Chef gives off a composed, uninterested impression, so I found it strange.

It appears that the Queen Mother, my mother requested this first. I thought it might be some foreign cuisine, but surprisingly, it was Millie’s suggestion.

The reason being, Millie said that fresh vegetables help in “Losing weight”. Because those are magical words to women, fresh vegetables rapidly spread among the noble ladies and children.

But, because the hectic government affairs temper me, I thought that I wouldn’t need this.

However, according to the letter Millie wrote the other day, fresh vegetables are not only good for beauty, but also for health.

“I want my dearest Ojisama to live a long, healthy life so please eat lots” This is what my cute Millie said, so well, I have no choice but to eat it.

Millie is not only cute, but also a kindhearted child. Maa, she’s especially kind to me. If Belhold heard these words, he would raise a complaint. But, although he’s my son, he doesn’t listen. It’s only natural. Because I’m Millie’s beloved Ojisama. *Fu*

Maa, I tried the fresh vegetables because of that, but unexpectedly, they weren’t that bad.

This macaroni? was also quite good. It seems that Millie also taught Head Chef this.

The Head Chef who was taught about fresh vegetables and macaroni reveres Millie with greater loyalty than me. Maa, I will allow it since it’s Millie. I’m a generous king.

Right, right, when I tried the Baumkuchen snack, I was greatly startled. Even though it wasn't that sweet, it was very delicious. Moreover, I have never eaten pastry with such soft and fluffy texture before.

This also seems to be made by Millie. Seriously, that child is not only cute, but also wise.

I have to ask that child to bring it over again. No, with pastry as good as that, it may be better to open up a shop. Let's propose it to Millie the next time.

"Now then, it's time to go"

After breakfast, I changed rooms to attend state affairs.

When I enter the room, a mountain of documents was piled up on a large table. As usual, I take a seat, the Prime Minister appears on the side and greets me, and I begin doing my uninteresting official duties.

Listening to this man, he too. I thought.

This man is the father of my dear Millie. I thought about making Millie my daughter, but the social position of a princess is strict, therefore I'm glad I didn't make Millie a princess.

No, making that child a princess might have been better. My Queen and I would lovingly raise that child with utmost care. Unlike her mother.

That child's mother was a troublesome woman.

She who's mother was a princess always had a weak body and was raised spoiled. Her mother, the Princess, died early, and she dealt with it like a tumor.

My mother, the Queen Mother, was also one of the people who spoiled Millie's mother. Because there were many men among the relatives, she must have wanted to be affectionate to the only girl.

But, even now, the Queen Mother feels obligated for bringing misfortune to Millie by creating a spoiled monster-like woman.

Therefore, I spoiled her. The problem wasn't settled, but there was nothing else I could do for the little girl that was frightened of everything.

Although our affection grew, Millie's reputation gradually changed to bad.

In front of me, Millie was an obedient and good child. That doesn't mean she was feigning in front of me.

On the contrary, she showed her real self in front of me. A tender, adorable smiling girl.

"Your Majesty, are you listening?"

Because I have immersed myself in my thoughts, the Prime Minister softly remonstrated me.

"Ah, sorry, about the snow matter from the other day? The result of the investigation is that there was no damage, right?"

"Yes, because it was only for a short while, there weren't any changes to the temperature"

Something impossible happened in the capital the other day.

It snowed.

In this always warm Morgenrot, it's an abnormality.

Moreover, not only snow but a light was also falling. An unthinkable natural phenomenon.

It was a breathtaking scene, but the thickheaded people got excited about an enemy attack.

Maa, because there was no trace of offensive magic, it was simply magic to make everyone feel happy.

However, because having such tremendous magical power that could make snow fall in the whole capital is terrifying, many people in the court are in fact, scared.

Hence, I had the town investigated.

"Your Majesty, I'm terribly sorry about this matter. To take an action of this extent without thinking... No, I didn't even think she could use this much magical power"

“No need to apologize. Because it’s unclear whose act it is. Isn’t that correct?”

“... Yes”

That snow made people feel happy.

The people in town think of it as a miracle from God, and watched it while shedding tears.

It’s obvious whose doing that thing was, but no one will talk.

“Didn’t that magic made children happy, it was probably magic to make children happy in the first place”

“Yes, a harmless foolishness”

The Prime Minister calls it like that, but I know that he received an unusual decoration from this “Harmless foolishness” person the other day which he holds precious.

There seems to be someone who has spoken ill of the rough carving, which reminds me I haven’t seen that person in the palace recently... Maa, can’t be helped.

I had also received a present from that child.

The handkerchief with a very beautiful embroidery made by that child herself.

So that means, that brutal-looking panda was also Millie’s work? In a sense, it seems to be harder to do than embroidery.

Maa, that embroidery was overflowing with love for me! I won’t lose even to her father when it comes to returning that child’s smile! *Fufun*

Child, huh. A child seems to have brought a good influence on her.

That atrocious marriage has brought her happiness. Because she was able to master the magic she avoided so much.

Maa, she overdid it a bit, but...

That child has a skill which makes things of value shine.

When I asked whether she can see this shining on humans out of curiosity, she told me that I’m shining. Therefore, she could approach me without worries.

Thus, “I appreciated having this skill for the first time”, she said while sweetly smiling. I was also very appreciative of the skill that did a good job. You did well, skill! I will

praise you!

First of all, I told her to inform me if any other man beside me shined. To reject an undesired lover of my adorable daughter... no, no, approaching too defenselessly is too dangerous. That was the reason!

One day, she informed me that she saw a man that shined.

What!? Is what I thought, but that man was considerably capable.

I thought that if it's this man, I will really, really reluctantly hand over her to him as a bride.

So I thought.

She would become my daughter if I married her to one of my sons, but the crown prince is like her older brother, and he also has a slightly older fiancée. The relationship with the second prince Justus is like of a cat and a dog. Besides, I couldn't honestly say that our blood is close enough.

However, because of these bad rumors, Millie might miss the marriageable age. Wouldn't it be better to marry Millie to that shining man? I thought.

Because I was the one who recommended it, Millie obediently went along with my proposal.

The problem was that Duke Flaksburb already had a fiancée.

For that reason, he gently declined.

However, because Millie's skill shined, I couldn't give up that easily.

It turned out with me, forcibly pushing Millie onto him, but the two tied the knots of marriage.

Being a second wife with Millie's social status is unthinkable, but I had no choice because of the status of Duke Flaksburb's fiancée.

It was slightly against his will, but looking at Millie now, it was the right choice. She was quickly blessed with a boy named Wirbel.

I had learned of her bad reputation, so I was very frustrated about that marriage, and the child's existence didn't make me happy, until recently. Will the negative chain continue? I thought.

However, look, that child who came to the castle the other day was beyond recognition. I thought her look changed. That always unhappy child wasn't there. There was only a happy child who threw all sorrow away.

Belhold probably noticed that too, and the two talked in high spirits. My mood was too good, and I ended up acting immaturely, but just how delighted Belhold and I were? I can't describe it in words.

I think I will keep watching over that child after this too. Just like the snow this time, I feel like I will have different worries than I'm used to, but compared to those frustrating feelings I had before, this is nothing. Fumu, but taking her magical power into consideration, I can't be too optimistic... it will be okay, right? Millie... prudence.

CHAPTER 38

LECTURING

The door leading to the garden are open allowing a pleasant breeze to flow in. In the calm and quiet space, only the sound of the pages of book turning and the soft rustling of trees can be heard.

“I see...”

As I thought, I still want illustrations, I turned through the pages of a book full of characters.

This is a magic book passed to me by the Cooperation Union Chief.

Because of my sudden deed,”Read this!”he strictly ordered me.

The book itself is quite interesting, so I don’t have complaints, but the Cooperation Union Chief was looking a little down with a tired expression...

From reading the book, I understand that the amount of magical power I carry is extraordinary. To the extent, I can’t help but worry...

There is no one in this world who doesn’t possess magical power, but only a few people are able to release that magical power out of their bodies. The magic released outside the body is proportional to the magical power within the body.

The amount of magical power needed to use ice magic to let it snow in the whole capital is truly ridiculous.

No one is telling me directly that it was my doing, but everyone speaks about my extraordinary lack of common sense since that day.

Everyone has already decided it was my doing without confirming first. If this were not my doing, I would be completely gray. Everyone is so cruel! Maa, it was my doing, though!

That incident appears to be a miracle in the streets. I’m amazed it became so serious, but it seems to be the consequences of the falling light.

My falling”Light”was not light that illuminates the streets, but the light of healing

magic.

It does not bring such change to physical condition, but it somehow makes you feel better? Because it was only at one place, there's a possibility that it was a people's doing, but the rumors saying that it was a "Miracle" have emerged.

"Everyone exaggerates too much..."

I leak an unconscious sigh with a complaint.

"It seems better to report that you are not reflecting"

My body jolts at the sudden voice coming from behind.

"Ch, Christhard-sama... please don't startle me so much"

The tall Duke Flaksburb stands behind me with an overwhelming impression.

"The king is too lenient, don't you think so?"

Christhard-sama continues talking while looking down at me.

"I am really grateful for his sympathy and appreciation towards this unworthy me. I sincerely receive Christhard-sama's and everyone else's discipline and engrave it to my heart"

"If you said it from the beginning, I would believe those words, but... are you self-aware?"

Christhard-sama's words pierce me.

Yes, it's indeed as you said...

I'm self-aware. Enormously. I am, but if I lose to the guilt here, my past sins will come up, and it will become troublesome.

Prohibition to go on the trip. If it's too bad, sealing off my magic?

"That reminds me, does Christhard-sama have any business here today?"

Because I don't want my past troubles to be dug up, I crisply change the subject.

"... Ah, well. I came to express my gratitude for the handkerchief from the other day"

Christhard-sama leaks out a tired sigh and states his business.

"It is really not something you had to come over personally for..."

Seriously! I mean, I gave it to Christhard-sama unwillingly... no, inevitably?... even worse than that...

There's no way I couldn't give Christhard-sama something after giving Arthur-sama, Anneliese-sama, Bianca-sama, and everyone else in residence. More than receiving thanks, I would like to apologize. Duty play, I'm sorry.

"Apparently, 『Courtesy is an important thing indispensable to human beings』 "

To my surprised-like words, Christhard-sama returns quietly.

Ah, you were told by Bianca-sama, weren't you! I can accept that!

However, surprisingly, Bianca-sama seems to be the one calling the shots. I bet he was lectured gently in harmony.

I have received a polite thank you letter from Bianca-sama. She's truly a good lady! I will send you sweets again, okay!

"Maa, just saying thanks for that staggering handkerchief may not be enough, though"

Staggering handkerchief... that's not praise, is it?

Right, that handkerchief has a magical power embroidery just like Wirbel's vest.

I thought I would be scolded again if I used as much magical power as I did for Wirbel's vest so I thought I was being moderate, however... I have received "Staggering handkerchief" evaluation.

Well, embroidering with magical power is absurd in the first place, but...

"I am happy you have received it"

“It’s where I got lost whether to lecture you or to thank you. Maa, thanks”

I’m glad! Not only Berta’s but I may have paralyzed Christhard-sama’s feelings too. A lecture avoided!

Christhard-sama is a man of few words, but the sharp glint in his eyes is scary, you know! Moreover, the repetitive silence is heavy! He might be the number one person I don’t want to be lectured by.

“By the way, how are your preparations of travel progressing?”

I have already talked about the travel with Christhard-sama and he even allowed me to take Wirbel along.

“Yes, I am expecting a perfect safety and a comfortable journey”

“I see... I would like to advise you to take it with moderation, but it can’t be helped since Wirbel is going along”

To my words full of confidence, Christhard-sama appeared uneasy about me overdoing it again, but Wirbel’s safety seems to be important.

“Then, it’s time for me to go, but... Amalie!”

“Yes!”

Having my name suddenly called out, I replied in a startle.

“Be careful”

Christhard-sama says in a commanding tone then quietly leaves the library.

While watching Christhard-sama’s retreating figure, this person indeed shines, I thought.

This person shone since the time I saw him for the first time.

The reason the skill shines is because of value, so I can immediately understand. But, why does Christhard-sama shine?

I could be convinced by the reason that he gave me Wirbel, but people who are not Christhard-sama could do that too.

Then, why? I can't come to a conclusion even if I think about it. Didn't I cause trouble to Bianca-sama by marrying? When I think that I made it difficult to the two people who love each other, I couldn't help but feel apologetic.

However, my concerns were canceled with Bianca-sama's confession. I did not cause any inconvenience. Because...

CHAPTER 39

BERTA

“Berta, protect Okusama and Wirbel-sama well. I’m relying on you”

My father Rouven had instructed me before we set on the trip.

I would do that even if he didn’t tell me to.

Father works as a steward of the Flaksburb house.

He’s trusted by our the patriarch, Dannasama, and not only manages the house, but also helps Dannasama with business.

I have an older brother, but he left the house because he didn’t want to do the same job as Father, therefore, I have helped as much as possible with the matters of Flaksburb house since my teens.

Because of that, brother feels obligated to me, so he quite spoils me.

When I asked him the other day, he quickly fulfilled my request.

He has prepared Dieter.

The magic beast, Dieter, is a familiar with fast legs and high power.

After my Brother had become an adventurer, he started catching magic beasts, training them, and selling them as familiars.

Therefore, when Okusama thought what to do about a guard, I immediately thought of Brother and asked him.

Right, Okusama...

As for why it was necessary to get Dieter as a guard, it started with Okusama’s crazy statement.

“I, do I look fifteen!?” I didn’t know what to think when I heard that.

After hearing her story, it appears that she wanted to falsify her age so she could enter a magic academy.

I was somehow able to make her give up on attending a school, but she was to learn magic in the Cooperation Union, so a secret guard was absolutely necessary.

It's very joyous that Okusama who was avoiding magic got interested in learning, but I can't rejoice when I think about the things Okusama causes when she becomes motivated.

Is there a bottom for Okusama's magical power? Thinking about that makes me terrified... But, the utilization of Okusama's magic makes me relieved.

With such magical power, Okusama would be able to do anything.

And yet, Okusama... Although I was frightened when she locked up the Sunlight Mansion in a strange dimension, I was just amazed in various meanings after that.

Maa, Okusama is doing all that for Wirbel-sama's sake.

To protect Wirbel-sama she embroidered his vest with magic, to make him happy she invented an iced beverage and made it snow.

It makes me want to sigh, but Okusama is doing her best in her own way. The direction she's going in is obviously weird, though...

She's coming up and using magic other's can't even imagine.

It can't be said that it has efficiency, or that there's a meaning to it... I feel strange thinking that such person was afraid of magic.

Okusama has changed on a certain day.

She started speaking words of gratitude, never thrown a tantrum or said something selfish. No, in another sense, it felt like she plunged on the road with all her might, hit a wall, and flew to the skies, but the sorrow clearly disappeared from Okusama that day.

Okusama was previously hard to deal with.

Maa, that can be said for every noble lady, but everyone has feared her tremendous magic.

Once when she got too agitated, the inside of the room was instantaneously broken to pieces, far from the furniture turning into rubble, it smashed into splinters as if she planned to draw blood. That time, I had troubles soothing the maids that didn't want to work at the Sunlight Mansion anymore. I was also suffering in a similar way.

But, in such disaster, the people weren't even scratched.

Okusama's magical power went on a rampage several times, but Wirbel-sama nor us, maids never got injured. In that sense, Dannasama believed Okusama.

Okusama was feared by everyone, but she wasn't hated.

That's probably because Okusama had no bad intentions deep down. When she said too much, she would cover up her mouth.

She seemed like a big temperamental child. Maa, it was troublesome, though.

It's just, now Okusama is just as troublesome as a little child.

This carriage... can count as one of them.

Okusama has improved the carriage, so Wirbel-sama can have a safe and comfortable travel.

But, the moment I got in the carriage, I was surprised by the difference between an ordinary carriage and this one.

It's quite a large carriage so I knew the inside would be spacious, but to think she would remove the seats on one side... like this, the excessively shaky carriage will shake even more. Naturally, that's what you would have thought.

But, that's wrong.

"Okusama"

"What is it?"

"It doesn't shake"

I take a seat on the seats and stare at Okusama who is relaxing on a soft and fluffy carpet.

"Wouldn't you feel sorry for Wirbel if the carriage shook on such long trip?"

When Okusama says in a pretending manner, the three years old Wirbel-sama gallantly says.

“Okaasama! I’m fine with shaking! Otousama said that discomfort on a journey is a matter of fact, so please let me know so I can help during the trip!”

“Maa...”

Okusama put her hands on her cheeks and looks at the unwavering Wirbel-sama in front of her.

Okusama’s eyes are overflowing with affection, I can clearly tell that she’s thinking how adorable Wirbel-sama is.

I who know Okusama’s previous self, am relieved that she’s learned how to show affection. Many people besides me probably think so.

Dannasama is one of them.

Not only from my father Rouven, even the patriarch of Flaksburb house, Dannasama said such words as “I think it will be difficult, but I leave it to you”.

“I think it will be difficult”... Dannasama sighed after he said that.

In other words, with the pure traveling safety, I guess there’s one more thing that I need to be careful about, which is Okusama.

Troubles caused by Okusama... Haa, this carriage hasn’t shaken at all since a while ago. Just what did Okusama do to the carriage while thinking “I would feel sorry for Wirbel”?

She probably did something outrageous again. There’s no room for doubt.

Because I have become Okusama’s personal maid after the last rampage, I was told by other maids that I must have strong guts, but now, even stronger guts are necessary. What has she done this time... just recently, I received such shock from Okusama’s magic I wanted to quit my job. A normal way of transporting trees!? As if!

A carriage that should shake is not shaking.

Did she do something again... I don’t want to think about it... m, my stomach hurts...

Does Okusama want to cause my premature death? If I am to die early, Okusama would be the cause without a doubt. Definitely.

When I unconsciously look at Okusama with reproachful eyes, Okusama presents me a plate with Swiss roll in panic.

Cake!! This is a supreme food!! I feel like I can do and endure anything with this!!
Okusama!! I will follow you anywhere!!

N? By the way, where did this Swiss roll come from?
It wasn't in the carriage just a while ago? It's not like she can make it in the carriage...
how?

Staring at her fixedly, Okusama took one more Swiss roll for Wirbel-sama. I thought where did it come from...
Okusama stuck her hand into the wall and took out a Swiss roll.

While dumbfounded, Okusama looks at me and panics and does something even more outrageous.

Okusama!"Ah, tea is necessary as well"not! Also, please don't retrieve tea from the wall! Second helpings of cake!? Something like that! I want it! I will eat! And as expected, she took it out from the wall! Mou, I don't care anymore!

I don't want to hear it, but I will hear it later!
I seriously don't want to hear it from the bottom of my heart, though!

CHAPTER 40

TRAVELING IS DANGEROUS AFTER ALL

What to do, an unexpected accident has happened.

The travel was very smooth, and nobody has stopped us because we have taken the “visible, but invisible” countermeasure. I have made sure to apply the magic effect not only on the carriage but also on the horse and the guard knights.

When I released the spell before approaching a town, there weren’t any difficulties, and there also weren’t any troubles when passing by fellow travelers and carriages outside the town.

However, it wouldn’t be a trip if everything went according to the schedule.

The incident that happened now just showed it.

Now then, what to do?

We crossed the highway and are moving through the forest now.

As everything went favorably so far, I have thought that nothing will happen in the forest during the day when the sunshine leaks through the tree tops.

Truthfully, that way of thinking is wrong.

The thickly growing trees are obstructing the sun, making the surroundings gloomy. Dieter let out a short vigilant “Nau” and stood up.

“D, what’s the matter? Is everything all right?”

Because Dieter who was sprawling around our feet suddenly stood up, Wirbel anxiously asks.

“Na~”

Dieter was standing up without moving for a while, but as the carriage advanced smoothly without an accident, he lowered his vigilance and lied down as before.

“Okusama, has something happened?”

“Yes, but it seems to be all right now”

Looking outside of the window, the dark road in front of us soon disappears in the darkness behind.

Dieter seemed to have noticed something dangerous, but it seems the danger was avoided thanks to the magic effect.

I sigh in relief and take out tea for everyone to relieve the tension.

“Okusama, if you are retrieving the tea, I will pour it. No, there’s no problem. Where did the tea come from...”

Just as Berta looked at me and the tea with suspicious eyes, preparing to start her scolding, a faint screaming voice could be heard from behind.

I unconsciously hugged Wirbel and looked out of the window, but the noise seems to be coming from far back so I can’t confirm anything.

“Has something happened?”

I ask the guard outside.

“The carriage traveling behind us has been most likely attacked..... there was a carriage riding little apart from us on the highway so”

“Is that so...”

“Because our carriage didn’t get attack for some reason, maybe it will be dangerous to keep on advancing...”

The guard knight serving Flaksburb House looks behind with a frown.

Our safety is the top priority of guard knights.

However, he must feel complicated because he doesn’t want to forsake the people behind.

If they make a mistake in judgment, they won’t be able to protect the people they

should protect, I can clearly understand his hesitation.

I mostly feel the same.

We should keep on advancing if I consider Wirbel's safety, but can't help but hesitate thinking about the fates of the people behind.

Their belonging will be most likely seized, and they will be either killed or sold, only hard days would follow after. Even if the one who is attacking them are not bandits, but monsters, their fate won't be much better.

I have no intention of saving everyone and becoming the champion of justice, but I can't leave people right in front of me to death.

While I keep on hesitating the lives behind may be getting extinguished, it won't be possible to turn around if we keep on advancing.

"Okaasama, I'm all right! This carriage is extremely safe, right? Otousama told me never to leave the carriage in case of danger. He said it's terrifyingly safe!"

Wirbel who sensed my hesitation gives me earnest words of encouragement.

Nevertheless, just how much does Christhard-sama know about this carriage... What kind of information network do you have? The Imperial Guardsman shouldn't have access to a secret service, though...

But, that's right. Just as Christhard-sama said, this carriage is safe.

If I put him in the dimensional barrier, no one will be able to hurt him... Un, I made up my mind.

"Then, shall we save everyone?"

"Yes, Okaasama!"

Wirbel nods with a serious expression.

I'm deeply moved that's he's becoming more grown up day by day, but now's not the time for that, so I immediately give orders to save the carriage behind to the guard knights.

The attacking party hasn't noticed our carriage. That's an advantage we have to use. Since we have not been discovered, let's stealthily approach and stealthily defeat. I don't think there's need to break through the front and discard our advantage without utilizing it.

As knights, they want to enter the battle and defeat the bandits or monsters gallantly, but I will have you not by all means.

The Knights are covered in the "visible, but not visible" magic. Moreover, they are wearing shoulder symbols embroidered with my magic, so their defense is flawless.

"Stealthily, from behind... is it?"

"Yes, this traveling party is covered in magic that makes us unperceivable to others. You won't be able to be recognized by other unless you draw too much attention"

"Ha!? Magic like that!?"

Although they are eager to help, the knights complained about my proposal to take the enemy from behind. However, when I explained them my magic, their mouths gaped in astonishment.

"I, I see, so that's why. This travel advanced too smoothly. Besides, it was strange that we were always ignored when talking to travelers along the way"

The captain of the guard knights recovers and somehow nods in consent.

Ah, it had a harmful effect after all.

Because the magic is not operating only when in town's surroundings, we were not perceived by other people.

Although there was no danger of getting attacked, normal communication got cut off. Indeed, it can't be helped they thought they were being ignored since I didn't inform them about the magic's effect. I should have explained properly, I'm sorry.

But, it's difficult to know what to keep secret and what to talk about. It's not good to talk too much, and it's too difficult to be moderate.

“Okusama, we will suppress the enemy while they don’t know about us, so please wait here for us for a moment. Dominic! Carl! Protect Okusama and Wirbel-sama!”

The knights leave on horses, leaving two of the knights behind.

“Okaasama, will everyone be all right?”

“Yes, they are the elite Christhard-sama selected for this trip. They will surely return back safely”

Wirbel wants to save the people behind, but he’s also concerned about the knight’s safety.

Since I am not at all familiar with battle, I also feel uneasy. However, I can’t show Wirbel such face.

To make sure not to break his smile and because I was worried, after all, I sent Dieter after them.

The five of us left at the carriage can hear faint noises of battle, but we can’t see, so we are unable to confirm the situation.

We have been waiting for a considerably long time, so my concern grows.

Are they all right? Would it be better if I went over to help?

I may be able to save them with my magic, but there’s also a possibility that I would become a liability. If I came over, they would think about protecting me first.

Waiting here should be best... but, ah, I’m worried.

After waiting in anxiety, it wasn’t just my imagination, but everyone’s late and my fears are growing stronger and stronger. Is everything all right?

While trying not to show my anxiety to Wirbel, the Knights have finally returned.

On the contrary to our worries, the Knights returned healthy with no injuries.

I’m glad! Seriously! A smile floats across Wirbel’s whole face.

“Okusama, sorry to keep you waiting. As expected, the bandits were attacking the carriage. The bandits were captured alive, so I notified the town and called for

soldiers”

“Alright, I’m glad everyone is safe. You were delayed a fair bit? Are the people who were attacked safe?”

“Yes, there was a total of twenty bandits, so it took time to gain a complete control. The attacked people have some injuries, but nothing life threatening”

The captain slowly explains to us who are still insecure.

“Twenty!? That’s quite a lot, isn’t it? I’m really glad that nobody got injured”

“Yes, thanks to Okusama’s magic, the enemy didn’t notice our approach at all, and for some reason, our armors shined when the enemy swords approached our bodies. It happened several times, so it’s not just my imagination... Okusama, I am aware that this is disrespectful, but have you used another magic in addition to the one you have explained before?”

The captain’s smile is scary for some reason while he questions.

Moreover, I have not answered him yet, but his words sound like he already decided it was my doing.

That’s right? It was my doing! What’s wrong with that!? tte, that’s right. I did it without telling anyone, huh~

Mou, captain’s is making such serious face, you Seriousness-san! Don’t mind the small things! You are just thirty, right!

I try to deceive him with a smile while poking fun at him in my mind.

“I, I wonder? What’s going on?”

“Okusama... you have done something again? You were in the middle of the explaining in the carriage, weren’t you?”

I hear Berta’s deep sigh from behind.

B, bad. Even though I could deceive them if they were alone, they pincer attacked me.
I'm being attacked by Tiger-san on the front gate, and Wolf-san on the back gate!
Someone help me~ Tasukete~!

CHAPTER 41

STROLLING AROUND THE TOWN

“Okusama...”

“What is it, Niisan? Please call me Millie as usual, okay?”

“Uh, that, Mi, Millie. Where shall we, no, where are we going?”

On the contrary to his imposing stature, he replies in a fluster.

“I want to take a look at the plaza we have passed in the carriage a little while ago!”

“Right, there were many shops lined up, it seems rather fun”

“I respectfully obe, no, I, I understand. Let’s do that”

A man, a woman, and a child. A combination of a three more or less awkward commoners is walking around the town.

This is the town of Gera.

Naturally, it’s smaller than the capital, but it’s a moderately crowded and lively town.

If you ask what we are doing right now, well, it’s as you can see, we are strolling around the town.

It’s Wirbel and me accompanied by the captain.

Because it didn’t seem like we could enjoy the stroll with an exaggerated escort, it turned out like this.

The captain is playing the role of an older brother who is accompanying his younger sister and her child.

Like this, he will be able to protect us up close, and more easily to intercept unexpected situations, but everyone was not of the same opinion.

Naturally, Berta opposed it, but I somehow managed to persuade her. We have changed from our obviously noble clothing and dressed like wealthy commoners. Because the other guards are hidden around us, I don't think we will encounter any danger.

Berta wanted to come too, but because fewer guards would be better, she stayed behind.

Berta doubted the safety, but maa, the captain is here because she was so worried. No matter how you look, he's stiff, and when I lightly touch his hand, he reacts with by jolting in a startle.

"Niisan, please calm down. You look too suspicious acting like that. The meaning of your disguise will disappear"

When I admonish him with a small voice, the captain nods, making up his mind.

"Y, yeah, I understand. I would like you two not to separate too much from me"

"Yes, Niisan. Wi also understands, right?"

"Yes! Okaasan! Ojisan!"

Different from the still stiff captain, Wirbel already adapted and properly replied. Watching happy Wirbel makes me smile unconsciously. Because I have promised him to go together to the town before the trip, we are both in high spirits.

There were some troubles encountering the bandits the other day, but the travel was smooth after that.

The people we have saved were very grateful. The one who saved them and put themselves in danger were actually the knights, so I was troubled receiving so much gratitude.

Maa, they were rescued from the worst case situation, so to them, it probably won't be enough no matter how much they show their gratitude.

There were women and children among them, so I was really relieved that there were no serious injuries.

However, even if there were no apparent injuries, it can't be said about their hearts as they were all frightened.

One child was so frightened he couldn't speak.

In order to soothe their hearts, we have changed the location a bit, and I have treated them to a cake.

Since sweet things have the power to make people lively, everyone's faces brightened the moment they put the cake into their mouths.

The child who couldn't speak of fear also muttered "Delicious".

Everyone was impressed with the cake, but there was one youth who especially ate the cake eagerly.

He said it closely resembled the cakes of capital's merchant Becker, but I deceived him while advertising the utensils a bit.

"I will definitely visit the capital!" is what he later said, but oh well. We will probably meet again somewhere.

"Okaasa, n. I, want to try that!"

Wirbel pulls on my hand and points at one of the shops.

Various ingredients and foods were lined up around the plaza, and shops selling cooked varieties were also in large numbers.

It was similar to an open air market as many unusual ingredients and seasonings were placed on tables which were tightly cramped together.

Wirbel stuffs his cheeks with what he has bought, and his eyes are already watching what to buy next.

It's his first time eating while walking, and it's also enjoyable for me watching Wirbel who finds everything to be new and fun.

"Don't release your hand no matter what"

"Un! Ojisan!"

Wirbel obediently answers the captain with a strict face, but he also returns a slightly mischevious smile.

After his initial discomposure had calmed down, Captain was carefully watching the surroundings.

Of course, he keeps his eyes on Wirbel at all times, so I know that this person is reliable.

Because I didn't inform him that I cast magic on the carriage and on everyone, he let out a big sigh then complained a lot.

Moreover, there is someone sensitive to magic among the knights, yet even that person couldn't notice the magic.

After finishing complaining, Berta forcibly pulled the captain who was now trying to teach me common sense away and complained to him.

Things like, "This much can't be even called common sense" and "She better grow hair on her heart" and "Does she understand my anxiety!?" were said. Somehow, the last one was a cry of her heart.

I couldn't tell if Berta was trying to hide her voice, but I could clearly hear her so I said "I can hear you" for a test.

Then, "I know!" she plainly responded.

Ah, that was right, that was right.... sniff. Berta, you bully~

The captain who was stuck in between two women had a troubled expression, but he tried to pacify us without escaping.

I can tell he's a good person just from that.

Brave, that is the only word that can describe him who didn't escape from the quarrel of two sentimental women.

How manly, Captain! Yo! So handsome!

"Cap... Excuse me, Niisan doesn't like sweets?"

"Sweets? No, I don't eat them often"

“Is that so?”

I see, I wanted to offer him a cake as an apology, but it looks like Captain doesn't like them much.

That reminds me, he declined when I offered him a cake at the inn.

Now then, what to do? If sweets are no good... bitter? No, it doesn't really have to be food, but I believe he would decline everything besides the food.

N~ Is there anything good? I'm troubled.

Ah, I wonder if he would like sweets made with alcohol?

N~ But, it would still be sweet.

Then, shall I make just the alcohol? I could make a plum wine instead of plum syrup, he may appreciate that. Un, that might work!

“What is that?”

Wirbel points at a black, thin thing.

That is... Konbu¹? No, that's Wakame². A dried wakame is placed on the table.

We have found something good! Wakame's utilization is wide, various dishes can be made from it.

Salad, pickled dish or soup base, it can be stewed or stir-fried! It can be used for anything! It can be said to be an all-purpose ingredient! As expected of Wirbel! A great achievement!

“This is a dried seaweed. It's used for cooking. Let's buy some by all means! Obaasan, how much is this?”

“Ah, this. Are you buying?”

“Yes!”

The elderly woman got startled by my enthusiasm.

“The price huh, we sell dried fish and shellfish, but this fellow got stuck on the fish

during fishing, so we incidentally dried it too. It's free of charge. I thought of giving it as a freebie to a customer who bought our goods, you see. It's just what I heard, but this apparently has no taste"

The kindhearted elderly woman couldn't bring herself to deceive us and kindly explained.

Yeah, wakame is certainly nearly tasteless by itself.

Wakame is mostly enjoyed because of its unique texture, so it can't be said to be that tasty on its own.

It appears that it's not a popular ingredient in this world.

"Then, I will look at the other things! You have quite a lot. Are they all from the sea?"

"Yes, we can't retain the freshness until arriving at the town so we can only dry it. Maa, it could be done with magic to some extent, but such luxury is not possible for commoners like us"

"Is that so... Ah, this is!? I will buy this!"

While looking at the elderly woman's goods, a wonderful ingredient entered my sight.

T, this is a treasure rivaling the wakame!! I can make that with this!

I thought of making plum wine for Captain as an apology, but that might be even better. Because it's salty, it goes well with alcohol! Naturally, children also love it, so Wirbel will also be happy!

"N? This is... You have eyes for strange things, don't you? This is also a sort of a small fry, you know? I'm troubled because it has no use"

No use, she said!? There is! There is a use! A great use!

If I have this, I can make "Yamerarenai Tomaranai³" !

Right, if I have this dried shrimp! I can make ○Paebisen with a mix of flour and salt! Yatta~!

"Obaasan! All of this and that please!"

“I, is that okay? Maa, I won’t stop you if you want it, but... please don’t complain later?”

The elderly woman reminds me.

“Yes! I won’t complain! Ah, if you’d like, want me to introduce you to a delicious recipe?”

“Eh? Y, yeah, then, please”

The elderly woman more or less nods to my pushy proposal.

Fufu, delicious things should be spread to everyone after all!

I’m really glad we went on a trip! As expected, journey (for ingredients) is the real pleasure!

Let’s secure a place where I can make it at once! I want Wirbel and Captain to try it right away! I hope they like it!

CHAPTER 42

THE STROLL ENDS

“I, I can’t stop...”

“That seems to be the case, this, I can’t stop either”

“It’s crispy!”

“D, delicious! I have never eaten something so good! Carl, what about you?”

“No way I could! Ah, I, I’m really glad I went on this journey! Cake is good, this is also good, everything is too delicious!”

Captain, the Obaasan from the market, Wirbel, and the Knights express their unanimous impression on the snacks before their eyes that they can’t stop reaching their hands for.

I’m glad that everyone seems to like it.

Right now, we are impudently intruding at the Obaasan’s house.

We have joined up with the Knights Dominic and Carl who were stealthily following after us and held a sampling meeting.

Captain and the Knights are wearing civilian clothes, but Obaasan seems to be a bit nervous.

Although they are wearing civilian clothes, they have a strict aura around them so it can’t be really helped.

Even though nervous, as soon as she tried the snack, she couldn’t stop reaching the plate for more.

Everyone harmoniously praised “Delicious. Delicious” with a smile.

Nevertheless, Carl... The joy of travel is a snack, isn’t it? Moreover, he’s muttering that he’s glad that he has become a Flaksburb House’s retainer. The joy of being able to

serve a House of Duke seems to be missing? Well, that's fine, but.

The Ebisen we are eating right now was made by Obaasan.

Because someone would get angry (Berta) at me later if I cooked, I have explained her the process.

Although I say that, the process is very simple, you just mix the minced shrimp with wheat flour, salt, water and knead. Then, you finish by cutting in reasonable sizes and frying.

"Nevertheless, I'm really surprised that such small fish could become so delicious! You are amazing"

Obaasan praises.

I thought that we would be a bother by intruding without asking, but I'm glad that she seems happy.

Because when Dominic and Carl appeared out of nowhere, Obaasan's suspicion raises to the maximum. I'm glad she didn't call for the town's patrols or something. Seriously.

"Thank you very much. By the way, this is also delicious when put in soup"

"Is that so? Then, I will give it a try!"

While talking with Obaasan, *tsuntsun* I felt pulling on my skirt.

When I looked down, my adorable Wirbel was looking at me with his round and cute eyes.

"Okaasama, ah! The snacks are gone"

When I look at the plate on the table, just as Wirbel said, it's emptied clean.

The Knights are regretfully licking their salty fingers.

"Ara, you are right. We should leave soon. Obaasan, we have intruded and caused you inconvenience"

"No, I'm grateful that I got to eat something so delicious. Come by my shop again"

“Yes, excuse us”

“Obaasan! See you later!”

When I lightly bowed, Wirbel vigorously waves his hand at Obaasan.

We were seen off by Obaasan’s smiling face, and we have returned back at the plaza.

“Are? Did Dominic and Carl go into hiding again?”

“Yes, they will be watching over us”

They blend with the crowd, discover suspicious people that approach us in advance, and remove them.

“We have to thank them with snacks later again!”

“Right, let’s teach Head Chef the process. But, overeating is not good, so we better be careful”

Eating too much salt is not good for the body, after all.

It doesn’t contain too much salt, but overeating is not good for kidneys and blood pressure.

I will get scolded by Christhard-sama if the Knight dies of premature death.

Besides, I got the image that the Knights eat only meat.

If we add junk food to that, I feel like they will definitely develop some kind of geriatric disease.

Maa, they may be all right because their are working out, but it would be better if they also eat some vegetables.

“Niisan, do you like vegetables?”

“Ha? N, no, I don’t like them too much”

Right! I thought so!

Yosh, then, as thanks, I will make delicious vegetables that the Knights would eat! Eh? They didn't ask for it? It's an unwelcome favor? That can't be the case! They will be pleased! ... Probably?

"Niisan! Leave it to me, okay!"

"Eh? No, what..."

I powerfully nod while facing Captain.

Even though Captain didn't understand, as if he had a bad feeling, an expression of perplexion and mistrust floated on his face.

Captain! Please leave it with a feeling of getting on a large ship! Not a mud boat! Don't get me wrong!

I will have a lot to discuss with Head Chef when we get back to the capital.

What vegetables would macho men like? I don't dare to think that they would like salads and vegetable juice.

N~ This is worrying. Let's slowly think it over during the travel! Maa, if it's impossible, I just have to forcibly make them eat it! There's no problem! Fuu!

"M, Millie? Your smile is somewhat scary, but..."

Captain looks at me and his face cramps.

Oops, pardon me. For some reason, a sinister expression floated on my face even though I was thinking of doing a good deed. Mysterious.

Ha! Did Wirbel see me!?

When I looked at Wirbel, he was watching the market in a daze, not looking at me. Ah, I'm glad! Okaasama will cry if you say that I'm scary or something, okay! I have to put myself together!

"Niisan, what did you say is scary?"

"N, no, I'm sorry"

When I turned towards him with a holy woman smile, Captain became even more frightened for some reason.

Why? WHY? I'm filled with kindness, right?

"B, by the way, wouldn't it be better to return soon? Because the cooking wasn't planned, it considerably delayed the original plan. Berta-dono would also be anxious"

"Ara, that's right. Wi, we should go back"

"Yes... Will we come again?"

Wirbel reluctantly looks at the plaza.

"Yes, look forward the next time"

"Yes! Today was really fun!"

That's right! The stroll with Wirbel was very enjoyable, and we have made many good purchases.

Dried shrimps too, but when I think about cooking with Wakame, I can only look forward to it.

I have to tell about Wakame Salad to Obaasama.

Wakame is low-calorie with plenty of nutrients. Moreover, because it's abundant in dietary fiber, it can be said that it's a good ingredient for beauty and good health!

The palace's head chef would surely gladly cook it if I teach him.

The salad became popular among the nobles thanks to Obaasama, so I think that the Wakame Salad would also receive popularity.

Ah, but if it becomes so popular all of sudden, won't the fishermen be in confusion? It might be better to inform Becker first so the fishermen won't suffer and can adjust beforehand.

Becker's large company should be able to do it. I can already imagine Becker's get rich quick scheme grin.

Maa, it may be alright to sell expensively to nobles, but the fishermen need to be reminded not to cover excessive profit. The market's Obaasan would be troubled, so we have to prevent them from monopolizing.

While considering such things, we have arrived at the inn we are staying at.

"Okusama! Wirbel-sama!"

When we enter the inn, anxious Berta welcomes us.

"We are back, Berta. Were there any changes?"

"No, there were no problems over here. I'm glad that Okusama and Wirbel-sama are safe"

"Thank you. We also didn't encounter any problems"

When I said that, Captain and the Knights *chirari* glanced at me.

What? Have I told some kind of a lie? I didn't, right?

I think it was a nice stroll with no problems at all. Right?

Wirbel also seems to be satisfied.

"... Carl? There's something stuck on your clothes"

After Berta had looked over us suspiciously, she discovered a fragment of something stuck on Carl's clothes.

"Eh? Ah! This is..."

Carl stiffens after recognizing the thing stuck on his clothes.

"I understand well. That I have to listen everyone about what they have to say! Let's talk slowly in the room. Slowly"

The mental states of the three Knights and me are definitely"I definitely don't want to

talk slowly!”, but we couldn’t run away, so we dejectedly faced the room’s door.
It can’t be helped that I was stopped, but would they who ate everything have a tomorrow?

At any rate, Berta is too sharp-sighted!

To notice a small fragment of a snack on clothes! You will get called sister-in-law!

Hii! A negative aura is escaping from Berta’s back!?

The Knights who are used to bloody battles are trembling.

You can’t, Berta! You will miss the chance of marriage, you know? Rouven will cry.

Hii! I, I won’t say anything unnecessary again! Yes!

CHAPTER 43

MINING TOWN

“We have finally arrived”

Although we did not travel particularly in a hurry but, because we didn't have to be concerned about monsters and other enemies, we have arrived unexpectedly early. Even though we have been traveling along the safer road as fast as possible, the Knights said that it's a miracle that we didn't encounter even a single weak monster.

This place, Kiel is a land that wasn't owned by anyone, so the land was left untouched. Amalie began mining the mines amid the land that could be said to be undeveloped. That time, it happened so suddenly that Amalie decided to develop the land without prior investigation, the people in the surroundings were surprised and disgusted, ridiculing and scoring the rich from the shadows.

Opposite to the people's expectations, it could be said that they dug up gems from the very start of the mining.

Maa, it could be said to be just the expected result of Amalie's skill.

However, why did Amalie think of developing a mine?

At first, Amalie didn't know how to deal with mining by herself at all.

If she wanted gems she could just buy them, there was no need to make money through hardships.

Then, why?

That's because Amalie's skill which shines when looking at valuables showed a different light.

It was not the usual eye-dazzling light, but it felt like the light ordered “Dig!!” for some reason.

Although confused, she began the mining and because there was no dissatisfaction and the results were favorable, Amalie must have forgotten about her doubts.

But, was the cause of that light the stone they dug up this time?

Is the same thing as the “pyroxene,” the national treasure that’s embedded in the crown?

I hope it’s not such troublesome situation if possible, but I have a certain feeling that the probability of not being that is thin.

Haa, so depressing.

“Okaasama, it’s very beautiful town, isn’t it!”

Wirbel happily watches the outside of the carriage.

Amalie wasn’t stingy with money with the mines and development of the town. She originally had plentiful assets, but the profits of this mines are considerable.

Because she put emphasis on the guards, and the workers of the mines weren’t abused, and their wages were good, their families moved here.

With housing allowance, medical care, periodic breaks and no night shifts, it can’t be helped that people rushed over to work here.

Because there were many applicants, interviews and such begun to be required, eliminating the problematic people and improving the public order.

As the town expanded, many craftsmen who process gems came to the town.

Naturally, the craftsmen were under Amalie’s protection, so people have settled in this easy-to-live town.

Many craftsmen worked hard and turned the town of Kiel into a town that produces the finest of the finest gems.

Because the gem processing is of the highest grade, Kiel’s gems are known in other countries and became a brand that even the royalty wants to obtain.

Naturally, there are shops for the miners, craftsmen, and their families. There’s nothing of similar scale in this remote place.

Because the population is still increasing, the roads leading to the town are steadily improved.

“Well, I have asked the King’s designer to design a town that is easy to guard, to create

the townscape in a systematic way and to make the roads wide enough for carriages to pass”

“Is that so! Okaasama is incredible!”

Wirbel towards me with eyes full of respect.

I’m happy, but... this is something that previous Amalie has accomplished~
It’s wondrous for Amalie to show such ability. No, you can’t really say that either...

Amalie was the only daughter. However, there was no possibility for Amalie who is a woman to succeed her parents’ house and manage the fief.

However, Amalie has wanted her parents’ affection since young.

She became an obedient child to be liked by mother, and she studied in order to be helpful and earn the love of her father.

If I could someday be helpful to Otousama... Thinking that, she stealthily studied territory management from books and past documents and also thought how to improve it with her own thoughts.

Perhaps Amalie has forgotten about her thoughts as a child, but she remembered what she learned.

She made use of it to manage this town.

Sarcastic destiny? No, probably the best destiny.

Because her childhood was somewhere in her heart, Amalie made this town with sincerity, she arranged the best conditions for the people who work here.

I thought it was unusual for me. But, I still made the orders.

“Ara, it seems that we have arrived at the mansion”

“Yes! So Okaasama has a mansion in this town!”

Right, I don’t remember ordering the construction, but my mansion is in the center of the town for some reason.

When the house building started, the people pleaded that they want to build my mansion first.

Starting with my mansion, they started building the town. Because of that, my mansion is located in the center of the town.

“Although I see it for the first time, it’s a beautiful mansion, isn’t it?”

“There are many flowers like in the Sunlight Mansion, aren’t there! Ah, but if we aren’t staying in the inn, I can’t stay together with Okaasama in the same room...”

Wirbel’s cheerful expression instantly reverses to a sad one.

On this travel, I have stayed with Wirbel in the same room, and we have slept on the same bed.

It’s ridiculous to stay in separate rooms while on travel, moreover, there was no way I could betray Wirbel’s eyes.

Although the Knights would guard in front of his door, he would be emotionally insecure.

“Maa, is that so? That’s lonely. I was happy I could sleep together with Wirbel on this travel, but I wonder if it’s no good?”

“It’s not no good! I also want to be with Okaasama!”

Wirbel’s eyes instantly shone with joy.

Cute! As expected, our child is the cutest!

Ah, but won’t it become”Same room? Not possible. Please, don’t say such stupid things”before long?

No way, will my adorable Wirbel become such brazen fellow like Christhard-sama?

Not possible, right? Say it’s not possible! Please!

“Okusama, we have arrived at the entrance”

When I grab the carpet with my both hands and tremble in despair, Berta indifferently exclaims.

You are so cold, Berta! Wouldn’t a bit more of sympathy be alright!

From happiness to despair, and cold Berta who definitely accurately understood my prayers.

Why are there only harsh and fanatical people around me!?

The only normal ones are Wirbel, Ojisama (King) and Bel Niisama (Crown Prince).

No, Ojisama and Bel Niisama occasionally run out of control, it might be that there are only children around for salvation.

Why!? What goes around comes around? That shouldn't be the case~

“Okusama, people are waiting to welcome you”

Berta, it's fine already! Cut it out! Your gaze is hurting.

When I get down from the carriage, there are a lot of people bowing their heads.

“Maa, raise your heads. Even though such grandiose reception is not necessary. However, I'm really happy for everyone's warm reception”

When I spoke, a person in the middle of the people stepped forward.

“Okusama, it has been a long time. To be able to welcome Okusama in this town, every citizen of this town is delighted”

The person who deeply bowed again after saying such is the person I let to be in charge of the mine and the town, Gill.

This man was introduced to me by Berta's father, Rouven. After interviewing him, I dispatched him to Kiel where he executed my instructions.

Today, he's like a counselor or a town mayor.

“Yes, I'm also very happy to be in this town. It's a wonderful town”

“Thank you very much. It's all thanks to Okusama. Everyone in this town immensely appreciates, respects, and admires Okusama”

Even though Gill is courteous, his face is full of joy.

The people around also have favorable impressions, it seems that Amalie is truthfully liked in this town.

It appears that Amalie is not received here as a selfish woman, but a compassionate and wonderful person.

Maa, it's certain that I can be considered a good employer, but as a person who is not used to praises, I'm puzzled how to respond.

"It's because of Gill and the effort of people living in this town that it became such easy-to-live-in town, right? Please continue to join forces with the citizens to make it even better town after this. I will also lend you my meager ability"

"Oh! How benevolent words!! This Gill will comply with Okusama's best exertions and show you even more wonderful town!"

Overcome with emotions, Gil declares powerfully.

I'm grateful. I'm grateful, but... It appears that Gill is the same kind of person as Becker and Head Chef, isn't he?

Whether I like harsh people or fanatical people better... I would rather harsh people?

No, I like normal after all... Let's relax in the room with Wirbel. If I get healed, I will finally meet the troublesome gem tomorrow.

Is it misfortune or is it fortune? Now then, which one is it?

CHAPTER 44

IN THE TUNNEL

Pechi.

N?

Pechipechi.

What?

Pechipechipechipechipechipechipechipchipechipechi...

“That hurts!!”

I brushed barrage of something soft off my face.

Because of the sudden movement, dizziness attacks me.

Uu, my body feels heavy... there's no power in my body.

What? Do I have a fever? My eyelids are heavy as well.

Pechi.

N~ Something is on my forehead, isn't it?

It's not unpleasant, it feels rather comfortable.

This soft and warm feeling is somewhat immensely healing.

Is it just my imagination or has my body became lighter? No, it might not be just my imagination... I feel like the heavy eyelids are lifting up naturally.

Thus, I slowly open my eyes.

..... Dream? I'm seeing an unthinkable spectacle.

Un, it's a dream. Let's sleep one more time.

I must be probably half asleep. That's right! That's the case! Good night~

Pechi.

...

Pechipechi.

.....

Pechipechipechipechipechipechipechipechipechipechi...

“I understand already! It’s not a dream, right! It’s all right to escape from the reality just for a bit, isn’t it!?”

Black and white object was squatting and looking at me with reproachful gaze beside my pillow.

The adorableness which was enshrined there was...

“It’s a panda, isn’t it? Like not a stuffed toy, but a living thing, right?”

Why, a panda? Were there pandas in this world?

And, why, is it sitting beside my pillow!? I don’t understand what’s what, though!?

“Okusama!? Have you woken up!?”

While the confused I and the panda blankly staring were staring at each other, I heard Berta’s surprised and relieved voice.

Light leaked from behind the door Berta has opened, and the dim room became a little brighter.

Un, seeing it in a bright place, it’s a panda, after all. Maa, there’s no doubt it’s adorable, though.

“Okusama, do you remember?”

Berta follows my gaze and asks while looking at the panda.

About the panda? If I remembered I wouldn’t be this surprised! I was rolling in confusion!

“Right now... is it a night? Where is Wirbel?”

“Yes, Okusama has collapsed during the day and has not woken up until now. Wirbel-

sama was concerned about Okusama at your side all this time, but it was already late at night, so I send him to sleep in another room”

“Is that so, is Wirbel fine?”

“Yes, he was very worried about Okusama, but he’s fine”

Hearing Berta’s words, my heart felt relieved.

If Wirbel is safe then, maa, panda or two are nothing.

No, I don’t need two, though? It’s true! Don’t go suddenly multiplying, okay? I beg you!

Now then, now that I have calmed down, let’s remember.

Why did I collapse?

Certainly, we went to the mines in the morning, right?

I was guided by Gill whom I entrusted the town and the mines.

Wirbel and Berta also rode in the carriage together with us.

We arrived at the mines which were slightly away from the town and met the workers who were busy working there.

Everyone was lively, they had bright expressions.

When I arrived, I was welcome in the same way the town citizens welcomed me and received everyone’s smiles.

Because Gill requested I say a few words of greetings, I told them that a little carelessness leads to serious injury, so they should be careful.

For some reason, Gill was so impressed by my suitable speech he burst into tears.

Although the miners did not cry, they had a similar reaction to Gill.

I wonder why? As I’m accustomed to very low evaluation, I couldn’t conceal the embarrassment. I was a bit puzzled, wasn’t I? Is it because I got used to it? I’m not an M, though!

Now then, the problem is the gem, but after properly hearing about it, it was

apparently still being mined, I'm told that it's stuck on the mines' inner wall. I thought it wouldn't be possible to carry it out because of its size, but that wasn't apparently the only problem as there was the problem of digging it actually up first.

I wanted to go to the mines at once, but because it was most likely dangerous, I left Wirbel together with Berta back in the carriage and let some of the Knights accompany me.

I wanted to leave all of the Knights behind to protect Wirbel, but that was denied, so Dominic and Carl who I'm familiar with followed me inside.

I had the Platoon Captain who seemed to be most reliable stay with Wirbel. When I tried to soothe Captain who was looking very uneasy and displeased with "I will be all right" he replied "Mines are very dangerous, so please be earnestly careful please" with a serious face.

N? Was there some hidden meaning?

When I tilted my head, Berta gave me a supplementary explanation.

"Mines are (Okusama is) very dangerous" that's what he was apparently trying to say.

No, no, how rude! I won't do anything, you know!? Eh? Destroying it with magic? There's no way I would do something like that!

Dominic! Carl! Even Gill, please don't look at me with uneasy expressions like that! I won't destroy it, okay! Even if I do, it won't be on purpose, you know? tte, I'm just joking, alright! You don't have to part with me with tears! Good grief!

I took the tragic three and set foot in the tunnel.

I had all the miners take a break from mining. Maa, just in case.

Guided by Gill, we advance quite far into the tunnel.

"Okusama, here it is"

When Gill raised his lantern fueled by magic over his head, a turquoise gem buried in a rock wall shone.

Because the light of the magic is similar to sunlight, it will probably have the same turquoise color outside.

Then, Gill held out a lit candle next.

“It’s red, huh”

“Yes, the color changes in this way depending on the light”

A color changing gem.

I’m afraid to say that Gill and the miners have not made a mistake.

This is the “pyroxene”?

I had seen the crown jewel up close when I was young.

If to say if it’s similar it is, but the size is so different it’s hard to say.

Besides, it’s not possible to carry it to the capital in order to compare.

It must be first dug out of there, but the miners told that it’s too hard and they can’t dig it up.

Now then, what should I do?

“Is it really that hard?”

“Yes, besides, it’s of this size so if we forcibly destroy the wall, the tunnel will be in danger of collapsing.”

I see... that is troubling.

After all, I should probably report to Ojisama.

If this really is “pyroxene,” it would be better to leave such precious gem to Ojisama to deal with.

There’s nothing I can do if it can’t be moved.

“It’s very beautiful, but it’s slightly oversized, isn’t it?”

I look at the gem buried in a wall.

Although it has not been polished yet, it’s surface is beautifully smooth.

It has a lovely oval shape, strangely smooth for a natural mineral.

In the first place, what is “pyroxene?”

The first King had already this “pyroxene” on his crown.

The first king of Morgenrot was a swordsman called the founding hero. It's said that he saved the world together with the magician Joerg Ballschmiede who also helped with the founding of the country.

Was the “pyroxene” attached to the crown also found like this?

However, the crown's jewel is not this large.

It's probably impossible to process this very hard gem into a smaller one. Or, would it be possible with magic?

I trace that shining smooth surface with my finger.

Beautiful... while absentmindedly staring, a light suddenly erupted from the place I was touching.

What? As soon as I thought, the strength of the light increased, it was so dazzling I couldn't open my eyes.

“Okusama!!”

I heard Carl's worried voice from behind, that's where my consciousness suddenly snapped.

Thus, I woke up lying in this bed with a panda poking my head.

“That's right. Okusama has collapsed in the tunnel”

“Yeah. I made everyone worry, didn't I?”

I must have put in chaos everyone that time.

I have also made Wirbel worry a lot.

Nevertheless, what was that sudden light? And, this panda?

It surely is not really a sacred beast, is it? No, but, why a panda? As expected, I don't understand.

It's unknown whether Berta understands the situation more than I since she has an equally confused expression, but she has probably tried to gather information while I was collapsed.

Please teach me! Berta-san!

CHAPTER 45

GEM AND PANDA

“How do you feel?”

“Yes, rather well”

When I answered the doctor’s question, the doctor showed slightly surprised expression.

“Is that so? Resting for a little bit more would be most likely the best. Okusama’s recovery seems to be fast”

“Do you know the cause of my collapse?”

While thinking that the possibility of him knowing the cause behind the event in the mine has to be low, I ask just in case.

“No, I don’t know the precise cause, but I could guess the reason why Okusama has collapsed”

“Maa, what is it!?”

“Yes, the case of one collapsing because the exhaustion of magical power is quite usual. However, I have examined Okusama immediately after the collapse, but Okusama’s symptoms are slightly different from magical power exhaustion”

Indeed, the Cooperation Union Chief has told me that spending too much magical power is dangerous.

When you try to use magic while exhausted of magical power, it consumes your life force instead, so it seems to be quite dangerous.

However, the doctor is saying that my case is different.

“Excessive use of magical power makes the heartbeat extremely slow in order to

prevent movement, so there wouldn't be any further consumption. Unconsciousness is the body's self-defense. However, I couldn't see that sign in Okusama"

"In other words, the cause is different? Moreover, you have said that you can guess the cause before, didn't you?"

Because he's an intelligent person, or because he's a doctor, the doctor's explanation is a little roundabout, I unconsciously ended up urging him.

"Yes, I dare say that Okusama's collapse was because of sudden loss of magical power. Not by exhausting it of your own will to use magic, but sucked up from the outside, Okusama's body most likely couldn't withstand that"

"That is an unusual thing, isn't it?"

"That's correct, however, because there are magical power sucking monsters, I have heard stories about them from adventurers. Maa, there were people who had their magical power sucked out and collapsed, and it would be difficult to distinguish the real reason behind the collapse. However, it's certain that Okusama's collapse isn't because of common magical power exhaustion"

Fumu, is it like a shock from rapid loss of blood? No, a little different?

Maa, to put it simply, my body got startled and collapsed.

Everyone in this world possesses magical power so it can be said that the body is composed of magical power.

"Then, will it have any adverse effects on my body in the future?"

Berta who was silent until now asks the doctor anxiously.

"No, with a little bit of rest, the magical power will recover. Afterward, please eat food with lot of nutrition"

"Is that so, I'm relieved. Really, thank you very much"

"Well then, please call me immediately in case something comes up"

Saying that, the doctor was seen off by Berta.

Now then, I now know the reason behind my collapsing.

Then, why was my magical power suddenly sucked out?

As expected, considering that it happened the moment I have touched the gem in the mines.....

“Berta, can you tell me the state of the mines?”

“Yes, it’s what I heard from the three that went inside together with Okusama so I can’t say in detail, but a dazzling light wrapped Okusama the moment you have touched the gem, and then, when the three opened their eyes, Okusama has already collapsed... the gem in the wall has vanished... I’m told”

“Eh!? The gem has disappeared!?”

“Yes, aside from a gouged out wall, there were no other traces of the gem”

Berta reveals perplexment.

That’s certainly surprising. For something of that size suddenly disappear...

Moreover, it was so hard it couldn’t be dug out so how did it disappear? Only doubts come to mind.

“There was no other change?”

“No, ah, yes, there is”

At my question, Berta’s gaze turns towards the side of my pillow.

There, a panda was cutely laying face-down while sleeping.

Ah, there was this child.

Although the biggest question, I forgot about it.

Just why is this child here? No, in the first place, why is there a panda in this world?

It's full of mysteries.

"Why is this child here?"

First of all, let's clear up this problem first.

"Yes, this... Sacred Beast-sama wouldn't separate from Okusama. Moreover, it was calmly sitting near Okusama so... I thought there shouldn't be any danger since it's Sacred Beast-sama"

Sacred Beast... it's recognized like that, after all.

It was Becker who selfishly decided that panda is a sacred beast, but I really didn't think I would be able to see one in this world...

At any rate, I thought that sacred beasts are phantom beings and that genuine pandas won't appear in this world, I did not think it would end up like this.

Becker... what to do!? Am I at fault for not rejecting you? No, that may be so, but! Mou! Why did it end up like this!?

"Okusama, you should rest if you feel bad..."

When I'm at my wits' end, Berta anxiously calls out to me.

"Thank you, I'm fine. So, when did this child come from?"

"That is, I don't understand well. Carl brought it along, so it seems it comes from the mines. In addition to that, it suddenly appeared after that light and was sitting beside Okusama..."

"Is that so..."

U~n, from the circumstantial evidence, it's not possible that this panda is unrelated to that accident.

And, perhaps, also related to the disappearance of the gem?

Let's think about it in order.

The moment I stroked the gem, that light occurred.

That means, my magical power was snatched by that gem?

Normal gem wouldn't have such power, but if we consider that it was the same gem as the national treasure, the "pyroxene," this mysterious phenomenon wouldn't be that inexplicable.

However, that gem has disappeared.

Instead, a panda has appeared.

A creature that shouldn't exist in this world.

Right, it's something only I know of...

"Have you noticed anything else?"

Wishing for more clues, I ask Berta.

I did not expect any particular answer, but it somehow left my mouth.

"Ah, that's right! It's something Dominic has told me, but he could apparently strongly sense Okusama's magical power from this Sacred Beast-sama. Dominic is sensitive to magical power, it seems he can tell even minor differences of magical power in people"

The panda has my magical power?

... I have no proof, but one hypothesis came to my mind.

In other words, that panda has been born from that gem.

I don't know if the expression 'born' is the correct one, but considering that the gem looked like an egg, it would explain the vanishing of the gem and appearance of the panda. Probably.

Thus, the egg required a lot of nutrition, which was magical power.

My magical power was not exhausted, but a considerable amount of it was snatched from my body.

Because I'm often told that I have a lot of magical power, it would be most likely impossible to snatch magical power from other people.

If Amalie didn't buy this mine and I haven't come to see the gem, this incident wouldn't

happen.

Or perhaps, the gem would most likely stay buried underground without being found. Fate? Inevitable? I don't understand well, but I feel like being guided to something.

Posu.

While immersed in thoughts, the panda had climbed on my lap and was watching me before I noticed.

There are still some questions left.

Why is this child a panda?

Although it's only a speculation, but it does support the explanation that it's born from my magical power.

Born from the imagination of the magical power's owner? Probably.

Such creature exist!? It does have such feeling, but maa, it can't be helped since it's here.

... It wouldn't turn out to be a real sacred beast, would it? It wouldn't, right? Hahahahahaha, haa.

Maa, on the bright side, the gem that was the source of trouble has disappeared!

There would certainly be an uproar if "pyroxene" was found, after all~

Instead, a panda has appeared, but maa, isn't that alright! Let's think it's good! Right! Panda-kun!

Poto. Korori.

... N, now, let's rest just as the doctor has told us to! Good night~

"O, Okusama! What is that!?"

"What is it? Berta, I don't feel well so I will take a rest"

I ignore Berta's fright and lie down.

“Okusama! What is it? It’s not! Okusama can see it too, right!? Please, stop escaping from the reality! That’s a futile resistance!”

Berta rocked my shoulders when I closed my eyes in order to escape from reality.

Let me escape from the reality! Please!

This should not be a reality!

It must be my mistake to see gems dropping from the panda’s hands! Right!?

Moreover, since they are small versions of the gem in the mines, this can’t be a reality!

... “Pyroxene”?

No, no, no, no, wrong! I’m wrong! I’m wrong, right!? Please, say that I’m wrong!

Ah~~~~~!!

CHAPTER 46

WORRY AND REFLECTION

“Fuu”

I sigh while stroking the back of the little child that has snuggled up next to me.

The next morning, when my body finally recovered, Wirbel came flying into the room with a face full of worry.

When I was soothing Wirbel who leaped into my arms while crying on the sofa, his body gradually relaxed and I soon heard “Ku~ ku~” his sleeper’s breath.

“He fell asleep, huh”

“Yes, he must have been tired from crying. He has also attended me until late in the evening”

“Yes, he must be relieved to see Okusama in good health. He was so anxious yesterday it made me uneasy”

“I see, then, it would be better to let him quietly sleep for a while”

When I said so, Berta lifted Wirbel in her arms and took him to his room.

“Okusama, the Platoon Captain and Gill-san would like to see you, is it all right to call for them?”

Berta who left came back into the room while pushing a tea cart and asked.

“Yes, I made everyone worry, didn’t I?”

When Berta gave signal outside the door, the Platoon Captain, the knights Carl, Dominic and Gill who’s in charge of the mines and town soon entered the room.

“Okusama! I’m glad to see you safe! You really gave me a life threatening fright for a moment!”

“Thank you, I’m all right. Did any unusual phenomenon happen in the mines?”

After having asked, I realized that I accidentally asked a question that wasn’t needed. Of course, an unusual phenomenon has happened. It was an unusual phenomenon in anyone’s eyes.

“Ye, yes, I think that you have already heard, but... that, g, gem has...”

Pitiful Gill answers in panic while breaking in a cold sweat.

“Yes, that’s right, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean it like that. I, of course, understand that the disappearance of the gem from the wall is not your responsibility. What I wanted to ask is if the disappearance of such large gem didn’t lead to the collapse of the mines or if it somehow interferes with the people’s work”

“Yes, I have observed the situation for a while, but there seemed to be no change, so I resumed the mining operation this morning”

Understanding that I’m not blaming him, Gill has returned to his composed attitude.

“I see, if you sense even the slightest sign of danger, suspend the operation immediately, okay? Everyone is wearing what was delivered to you before, right?”

“Yes! Everyone is thankful for Okusama’s consideration!”

Gill looks at me with the usual expression of adoration.

No, it wasn’t that great of a deal?

I thought what’s necessary for workers in the mines and came up with helmets. When I checked, they weren’t wearing on their heads as I have expected, so I had Becker Company make it as always.

When I told Becker to make masks while at it, he asked”That, what kind of a thing is

that!?”with sparkling eyes.

Because he was looking at me in wonder when I told him it's so the workers don't inhale mine dust, I explained to him that inhaling too much mine dust will damage the body.

There seems to have been many people who harmed their body at the mines until now, but it seems that the dust was not thought to be the cause.

Becker full of commercial spirit muttered”This will sell”and ominously grinned.

After explaining that there is also an effect to prevent infections such as influenza while smiling wryly at the usual Becker, his eyes started sparkling even more.

Maa, since this is useful to people, Becker's enthusiasm might have been good this time.

That being the case, I had the helmets and masks delivered to the workers.

What I was also worried about were the gasses.

I heard that harmful gasses might spring forth when digging mines, so I was wondering whether there's a method to avoid it.

I have a vague recollection of birds being used to notice abnormalities early. Because I remembered hearing a story like that and couldn't judge its validity, I have sent a letter in order to consult with Gill.

Then, the answer came surprisingly quickly.

He said that there are monsters who consume harmful gasses.

Seriously!? I felt like that, but it appears that there really are such air cleaning monsters for some reason.

Because people are aware that mines occasionally produce gasses that are harmful to people, there was a story that there are monsters who can effectively prevent it.

That being the case, I thought that he should have told me from the beginning, but because the monsters are very expensive, I understood why Gill didn't tell me right from the beginning.

If it's like that, it's easy.

I said it many times, but I have money! And I also have an intermediate (Becker), so I

immediately deployed the purchased monsters to the mines.
Because the living air cleaners are very obedient and cute, they also contributed to comforting the workers, Gill then sent me a letter of gratitude.

“Okusama, I’m terribly sorry!”

When I raise my head at the sudden words, the Platoon Captain and the two knights were silently bowing their heads.

“Maa, you are not responsible, though? Please, raise your heads”

“No, we shouldn’t let Okusama enter the mines without confirming whether it’s dangerous or not. It was a terrible negligence. Moreover, there also was the danger of the mines collapsing, the mines are not a place Okusama should set a foot upon, I should have stopped you!”

Captain declares with a serious voice mixed with regret.

“Not at all. The safety has been confirmed by the workers, I have also received an explanation that the mines are under a magic effect that prevents the collapse. This incident was not your fault”

“No! We should have confirmed the safety ourselves, although I couldn’t stop you, I should have at least accompany Okusama!”

The Captain with serious expression makes me feel sorry.

Having me encounter danger must be intolerable for Captain who has sincerely pledged allegiance to the Flaksburb house.

However, that was completely unavoidable. Nobody could expect it.

And, if there were a person who made a blunder, it would be me.

I was completely careless and didn’t think of danger at all.

I shouldn’t have carelessly touched the gem.

I should have thought that something might have happen.

Because I knew that it might be the national treasure “pyroxene,” the precious gem of legends.

If that gem had absorbed my magical power completely, I might have died.

Dying is very frightening, but thinking that I might have left Wirbel in this world alone, my body started trembling.

Not being able to stay by his side to protect him, not being able to embrace him with love... although late, I became terrified by my own carelessness.

“No, it was my mistake. I should have been more careful...”

“Okusama...?”

Seeing my expression swiftly change to blue, Captain looks at me anxiously.

“I’m all right... Let’s see, how about the both of us learn from this lesson to be more careful in the future? Both you and I made a mistake. Isn’t that so?”

When I pull myself together and ask, Captain, Carl, and Dominic drop on one knee and sincerely bow their heads.

I was a little startled by the highest grade bow, but I felt happy that our bonds have somehow deepened.

“Okusama, so... it’s hard to ask, but that, that fellow, no, that...”

Carl hesitates to ask while shifting his attention next to me.

“Ah, this child”

Everyone’s gazes focus at one point.

A black and white body was laying next to me as if it was natural.

“I have heard that you picked it up, though?”

“Eh!? Ye, yes, it clung to Okusama and wouldn’t separate, besides, I couldn’t leave it behind after seeing those eyes...”

Carl says apologetically.

Maa, it’s not like I don’t understand his feelings. You can’t go against those bead-like eyes when they are sorrowful.

Moreover, I can’t blame Carl for not leaving it behind in this disturbance.

“Dominic, I heard you could sense my magical power from this child?”

“Yes, even now, I can feel Okusama’s magical power flowing through its body”

Dominic looks at me and the panda and nods.

“Flow of the magical power?”

“Yes, Okusama’s magical power flows into the, umm, Sacred Beast-sama? than returns back to Okusama with its power amplified”

“ “Amplification!?” “

Astonished voices besides mine overlapped over Dominic’s words.

“Are you saying that Okusama’s abnormal magical power is being further amplified!?”

“That is... how frightening...”

“Eh!? Isn’t that dangerous!?”

I understand their feelings, but their words are too rude.

“Hou, as expected of Okusama!”

Gill irrelevantly raised his voice in admiration.

Amplification? Amplification, huh... amplification of a bottomless magical power? I'm scared if I say so myself.

What should I do... throw it away? No, throwing away a panda is no good.

I'm troubled. When troubled, I have no choice, but to depend on Ojisama as always, huh?

There's also the thing about the gem, and I will be coming home with a panda.

Ah, is it really all right to bring the small celebrity that has the panda become back to the capital?

Although I wanted to keep panda when I was small, it was an unrealistic thought.

Mother always told me that panda in the house would only bring troubles.

Troubles in the house. She was indeed right.

CHAPTER 47

TWO HEROES

In the ancient times, this world sunk into the darkness.

The atmosphere was stagnant, and it was as if the death was approaching simply by sucking that air. People spent their daily lives with spiritless eyes, both their bodies and minds followed the course of death.

Everyone was further pushed into the life of fear with no future and hope.

In such world, one, no two lights have lighted up.

Their detailed origins were unknown to the world, but the stories of their encounters became famous in a very short time.

It's said that a mountain has vanished because of their quarrel.

The cause of their quarrel at their first meeting is not definite, but both of the young men were proud of their power, resulting in both sides not wanting to pull back.

Until now, there were no people who could win against their magical power and strength, they were no outlaws, but there wasn't anyone who went against their will.

That's because the two men stand before each other. Moreover, they weren't afraid of their opponent's power, they felt that the opponent has an equal power to themselves.

They were irritated by such opponent, and being prideful men, it turned into a competition.

They were not as stupid to injure each other without reason, but they weren't adults enough to obediently acknowledge the opponent's power.

They would compete in strength, they would seek strong monsters and bring them down.

Their strong points diverged into sword and magic, but they competed with those powers, but the victor wasn't easily decided.

In the meanwhile, they decided to travel together, and they got to know each other while sometimes helping each other.

However, because their stubbornness was authentic, they couldn't reconcile as it would seem like defeat.

And then, as mentioned before, a mountain has vanished.

There was a poisonous swamp at the top of the steep mountain where no grass grew, and a gigantic monster that looked like a mix of a snake and a catfish resided there. They have competed for who will defeat that monster, but because they were absorbed in arguing, they have completely fallen into the monster's trap.

They were stronger than the monster, but sometimes, pride plunges people into a predicament which could deprive them of their lives.

Although they were taught such lesson by someone before, they didn't pay attention to it. If there were now destroyed because of their own carelessness, they wouldn't be able to laugh it off as an unrelated story just as before.

However, unfortunately, they didn't have such pretty character that would immediately allow them to become humble.

Even though they were about to be killed by a monster, they were broadly grinning and glaring at each other.

From a women's point of view, they can only think that their vigor is useless and stupid, but men like them will answer with a pride of a man.

And then, when thinking that they would die while pretending to be tough, the sky became their ally.

A drop of fresh water fell into the swamp covered in the monster's thick fog which trapped magic, causing the legless monster's body to lost freedom over its movements. That drop brought them freedom for about one second.

It was less time than a blink of an eye, but it was enough time for them to counterattack.

They let all their power loose at that moment.

The swampy mountain and the monster vanished without a trace, and even the dangerous monster forest at the foot of the mountain disappeared.

Thus, they remained standing on an empty ground.

They muttered "You, are good" both at the same time while breathing heavily.

They were in a daze because their lives were saved, but after looking at the erased mountain and each other's face, they gradually started smiling until they burst out in laughter.

When the swordsman said "Maa, this much is easy for me" while broadly grinning and

laughing, the magician *fun!* laughed scornfully in reply.

They became friends and then traveled together.

They later were called two heroes who saved the world.

The swordsman became the King and established a country called Morgenroth.

The magician spared advice when the swordsman who became King asked, but he himself chose to live quietly in a seclusion.

“Okaasama, that hero is the royal family’s ancestor then!”

“Well, that’s what’s being said”

There are many fairy-tales and historical facts, and the legend of the two heroes is very famous.

There are many countries in this world, but Morgenroth is the oldest country, and it’s said that the hero who saved this world from the darkness is the founder.

It’s said that the capital of Morgenroth was built in the center of the world, and it seems that the founding festival has been held since its founding.

“Then, is that story also true?”

“That story?”

I told Wirbel about the heroes as him the bedtime story, but he shows no signs of going to sleep.

On the contrary, he’s wide-awake because of the heroic tale which many boys like.

“Yes! Hero-sama was accompanied by a dragon, wasn’t he?”

“Ah, that’s right, it’s famous”

In the stories about the hero, his dragon friend often appears.

I can’t be really sure if there was a dragon that was his companion, but considering that there’s a dragon on the royal family’s crest, it might be fine to consider it true.

Suddenly, I remembered a sentence of a legend Ojisama told me when I was small.

『The Holy Ones has no shape. The Holy Ones would take on the shapes which the swordsman and magician have bestowed upon them. The Holy Ones would increase their powers after taking shape, and it became the power to exorcise demons』

A shapeless takes on a shape?

Is there a relation to why Hero-sama was accompanied by a dragon?

Besides... what is it? Hasn't something similar happened recently?

No, must be my imagination... it's just my imagination, right? Probably.

“Okaasama? Did something happen?”

“No, it's nothing. But, I became slightly sleepy. Let's sleep already, okay?”

“Yes, I became somewhat sleepy as well...”

Wirbel who's laying in the same bed curls up in my arms.

When I pull up the sheet to cover us and close my eyes, I could already hear Wirbel's sleeper's breath. I also slowly fell into sleep.

CHAPTER 48

PLATOON CAPTAIN, TRAPPED 1

“There’s was no problem in the safety verification of the mansion then?”

“Yes, the knights have been defensively arranged as per Platoon Captain’s instructions. We have looked all around the rooms for suspicious points, and we have confirmed the back entrances as well”

“Yosh, I don’t think anything will happen to Okusama and others in this town, but we can’t be negligent. On this travel, protecting the two is our responsibility. Understood?”

“Yes, I will make sure to pep talk those who are slacking”

Carl gave a serious nod and left after bowing.

Carl gives a light impression because of his bright and charming personality, but he’s very skilled knight.

Often paired with Dominic, they are both young, but both of them are reliable youths with a promising future. These two were added to this travel surely because Christhard-sama also trusts them.

I should feel terribly old watching the young generations, but there’s not such a thing. It’s said that man’s prime is in his forties, but I’m still in my thirties. It’s still too early to say that I’m old.

In any case, I still don’t have a wife. I have more or less missed the marriageable age because of my duties and training, but it’s still not too late.

Having said that, it’s not my current objective, so wife and child are still a way ahead.

No, this is not the situation to be thinking about this. It seems I have also gotten lax after arriving at the final destination of the travel.

This town is Okusama’s town, it’s a very good town.

Although the danger and monster damage increase the more you separate from the

royal capital, this town is a very safe place to live. Because this is all thanks to Okusama's grace, it's only natural that the townspeople are grateful and appreciative. Well, I was a little surprised about the worship of Gill who was entrusted with the management of this town, but.....

Okusama is a mysterious person.

Okusama's reputation in the royal capital just a little while ago couldn't be said to be sweet by any standard.

Although I saw her figure from a distance before, I never had a direct conversation. She gave me an impression of a lofty lady with a smugly and cold expression.

Because she was famous for having too much magical power, I thought of her as slightly pitiful.

There are people who have a hard time handling their magical power among the knights, but their magical power can't be compared to Okusama's. She must have had it really difficult.

However, Okusama's reputation suddenly changed entirely.

Her high temper has ceased, her severe facial expressions were changed for a smile, and furthermore, she now treats everyone to sweets (regardless of social status).

Everyone was surprised by the abrupt change. It's rumored that Okusama's state of mind changed because of the illness we were not told the details of.

But, looking at this town, I'm thinking that Okusama wasn't that cold before she changed. Well, truthfully, Okusama's mind is difficult to read, so I can't say much, though.....

The impression of Okusama has changed, but the strength of her magical power is unchanged.

I realized that during this travel.

Okusama's magical power keeps surprising me. Not only its power, but I have also never heard of such usage.

She might be like the legendary magician of the past, no, she might have already exceeded him with her uniqueness.

I didn't know that there was a magic that would make others difficult to recognize my existence. Moreover, her magical power is so startling that it wasn't used only on myself, but many people and things (carriage).

Not only that, the shoulder strap that was handed to us before the travel seems to be infused with protection magic.

Is something like that possible? When a method in the category beyond my expectations is used, I can only sigh. I can't help but wishfully think for this travel to end.

“!?”

What was that? I suddenly felt cold creeping over my back.

I reflectively reached for my sword, but there's only a dim corridor behind me.

Dim? Is the fact that the part of the shadow where the light from the window can't reach feels darker than before?

And, it's steadily spreading?

“U!?”

The shadow instantly fills my field of vision, and my breathing gets blocked, and my vision is pitch black.

I grit my teeth, shake my hands to shake off the shadow and stare at the dim place I deem to be the cause.

Then, the ominous dim place that has been there just a little while ago returned to being just a shadow. There are no threatening signs at all.

Was that just my imagination? No, that shouldn't be the case, but.....

I lightly shake my head and take a deep breath.

The shadow that was before my eyes is gone, but I can feel a faint haziness in my head. What has happened to me? It should have been something strange, but I don't know what that is.

What was I thinking about...

Y, yeah, that's right, it was Okusama's magical power, wasn't it?

Magical power that exceeds the beyond the expectations category.

How fearfully strong. Is it all right to leave a power like that run loose?

It will be dangerous if someone doesn't confine that abominable power. If anyone won't destroy that monster-like power... I... should do it...

Something dark wriggles around his head like a snake.

Someone... save me. Please.

However, that wish was denied by the emptiness, and his mind was inevitably swallowed in darkness.

CHAPTER 49

PLATOON CAPTAIN, TRAPPED 2

My limbs unnaturally slowly move, and they head towards Okusama's and Wirbel-sama's room.

Somewhere in my hazy head, I hear an angry voice telling me to stop.

However, without being able to stop my legs, I advance like walking through a swamp, but I'm definitely approaching the destination.

I grasp the handle of the sword in my hand. What do I intend to do from now on? Is it not something that can't be undone?

《Kill》 a voice resounds in my head.

No, no, no! Someone, someone stop me, please!

《Kill》

Please, someone, kill me... please... before it's too late...

《Kill》

Uu...

I grit my teeth so much that a taste of blood spread through my mouth.

Peshi!

My pair of legs that moves against my command came in contact with something.

When I lower my gaze to my feet... light? No, this is a panda...

A black and white mysterious creature we found in the mines was there... right, Sacred Beast-sama was there.

I can feel the warmth spreading from the area where Sacred Beast-sama touched me, even though I shouldn't be feeling anything in my legs.

That warmth became light and spread throughout my body in every nook and cranny as if gently embracing me.

And then, the haziness in my head miraculously disappeared, and the light went out at the same moment, leaving only the warmth behind.

“N? I... what was I doing?”

I gave instructions to Carl, and after that... did I just doze off while standing?

Falling asleep while thinking, have I become too lax?

I don't really think that would be possible, but because a comfortable warmth remains in my body, I might have really fallen asleep for a moment.

Peshi!

“N?... Panda, no Sacred Beast-sama?”

Looking down, there was a black and white animal looking towards me with both its hands raised.

... Does it want to be lifted up?

While hesitating, I felt something like an obligation which didn't allow me to oppose for some reason, so I lifted Sacred Beast-sama up in my arms.

Something warm spreads through my arms into my body from its fluffy body.

Comfortable. Gentle. Loving. And, forgiving.

“Thank you very much”

For some reason, words of thanks left my mouth and tears started rolling down my eyes.

“Platoon Captain, is something wrong?”

While staring at each other, Berta-dono approached from the front.

Whether surprised by me holding Sacred Beast-sama in my arms and talking to it, her undestroyable composed facial expression is unusually looking at us in surprise.

A smile unexpectedly forms on her lips that were unconsciously slightly rounded open.

So cute... n? No, that's not the case. No, it's a fact that she's cute, but I shouldn't have planned to think of such thing.

Right, my planned thoughts should be... in the first place, what are “planned thoughts”? ... My head is in chaos.

Umm, she is... strict, but kind woman. Fumu, these thoughts should be safe? I think. Yosh, let's go in this direction.

She is... right, with her good taking care of people and wisdom, she would make a fine wife... wi, wife!? No, no, no, no. W, why am I?! What is happening!?

“Are you all right?”

She calls out worried to me who's doing a hundred expressions.

Yeah, what a gentle, pleasant to hear voice. If I could listen to this voice for the rest of my life, I would be able to spend my life happily.

When returning from work, “Welcome home” she would greet me with a smile, I would gently spin her around as her soothing voice would heal me. She would be the reason to return home, the person to risk my life for...

Ha! W, what am I thinking? I'm not a frivolous young man, this is not like me who is often called a blockhead! Well, being called such is not making me happy, though.

I can't think straight when looking at Berta-dono for some reason.

When avert my gaze, I met Sacred Beast-sama's eyes. It looked at me with its big eyes and tapped on my shoulder. Is it comforting me? Or rather, trying to calm me down?

Although it's a Sacred Beast-sama, my stupid heart has been seen through this no matter how you look at it little animal, so I quickly push it into Berta-dono's arms.

Most likely, Sacred Beast-sama used its mysterious powers and make me feel this confused. That must be probably it! It has to be it!

“B, Berta-dono, t, today is good weather, isn't it?”

“Ha? Is that so?”

Berta-dono looks at the cloudy sky from a window and unclearly nods her head.

Uu, of all things, why did I have to talk about weather!? I have appalled Berta-dono!! The mysterious power should have escaped when I separated from Sacred Beast-sama, yet the chaos in my head is not settling.

Moreover, my heart is throbbing, and I'm short of breath.

Looking at Berta-dono holding Sacred Beast-sama, I imagine her holding our child. Our child!? This is bad, I feel like I'm hearing my heartbeat resounding around the corridor.

This moment feels like an eternity. I feel conflicted by the contradicting feelings that I for some reason don't want to lose and want to escape from this place.

I want to look away, but my eyes can't help but meet hers. Then, my temperature suddenly rises, and my face turns bright red.

These symptoms...

"Be, Berta-dono! I'm sorry, but I suddenly remembered a business I need to take care of, excuse me!"

Deserting under enemy fire is disgraceful as a knight. However, I can't help but be frightened by this situation.

Even a great hero would falter because of the flower garden in his head.

If it can't be called temporary and if I lose it after obtaining it, my heart might collapse.

I was trapped by fate.



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